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Chirac: Only a Palestinian state will bring security to Israel

Braves draw 1st blood
It's all in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

FRENCH President Jacques Chirac yesterday called for a greater French and European role in the peace process and for Israel to make concessions. He urged the government to accept the concept of a Palestinian state alongside Israel and to try to achieve peace with Syria and Lebanon based on the principle of "territories for peace." Despite his perceived pro-Arab stance, Chirac stressed that he was speaking as a friend, while stressing that France's friendship with Israel is both trustful and demanding. Chirac said he understands Israel's preoccupation with security, recalling the "terrible" terrorist bomb attacks at the beginning of the year. He warned, however, that security cannot be guaranteed by force. "If one's word is not kept, if agreements are not adhered to, there will be no peace, and if there is no peace, there will be no security," he said. "If a fair, just, and last-

ing peace is not assured for all the peoples of the Middle East, let us be under no illusion, violence and terrorism will return. The tragic events of last month show evidence of this. The absence of movement exacerbates frustrations and bitterness. Sooner or later they will explode." Chirac was adamant about what should be done to prevent any recurrence of the violence that erupted in the territories last month. "Strong gestures must be made. The autonomy of the Palestinians must be fully translated into fact. The agreements entered into must be completely implemented," he said. "The Palestinians must be able to move about, work without hindrance, and rebuild a ravaged economy. The negotiations on the definitive status of the Palestinian territories must get under way without delay on all the issues that were planned. The Palestinians must be able to exercise their right to self-determination."

DAVID RUDGE

Chirac decided to make the main political statement of his visit at the Technion in Haifa. He was warmly applauded by the several hundred guests who packed the Churchill Auditorium both before and after his speech, prompting him at the end to open wide his arms, bow slightly, and wish everyone "au revoir and merci" (good-bye and thank you). He adopted a no-nonsense attitude regarding France's political view of how Israel-Palestinian relations should develop. "As long as the Palestinians are not able to take charge of their own affairs, as long as they are not entitled to the dignity enjoyed by other peoples, as long as they have to make do with a second-rate collective existence, frustrations and bitterness will persist and we all know the bitter fruits these produce," he said.

"On the contrary, a Palestinian state would provide Israel with a true partner. Only such a partner will be capable of making and adhering to the commitments that are necessary for the security of Israel." He stressed that a "just and balanced" agreement would have to deal with the most difficult of questions, including Jerusalem, the situation of the Palestinian refugees, and the future of the Jewish settlements in the territories. "We must face reality squarely. Without a negotiated solution to these problems, peace in the Middle East can be but illusory. Such is the price of security," he said. Chirac was equally blunt about what Israel should do to achieve peace with Syria and Lebanon. "I have just come from Damascus. I had long talks with the Syrian leaders and I am convinced they have opted for peace," he said. "Yet in Syria, like in Israel, there is still deep suspicion. Each government questions the

other's real intentions and tends to see a gun behind the outstretched hand. "The basic elements of the peace to come are clear to see. Israel is entitled to full recognition, full security guarantees, and to normal relations with neighboring countries. Syria is entitled to the return of the Golan Heights. The principle of land for peace was the basis of the Madrid Conference and remains the basis for negotiations." Chirac also made no bones about France's special affinity for Lebanon and also claimed credit for the establishment of the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee to prevent the fighting in south Lebanon from "getting out of hand." He stressed, however, that peace would only return to that region with the full implementation of UN Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Chirac also maintained that a solution to



French President Jacques Chirac is escorted through an IDF honor guard by President Ezer Weizman yesterday upon his arrival at Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem. (Brian Hendler)

Ross leaves as Hebron talks stall

US special Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross left for home yesterday without concluding a deal on Hebron, but said substantial progress had been made. He did not say when he would return. Despite Ross's departure, neither the US, Israel, nor the Palestinians sought to depict the current juncture in the talks as a crisis. Angry Palestinian negotiators, however, walked out of the talks late yesterday to protest the attitude of Israeli delegates, which they described as that of "occupiers toward the occupied." PLO officials said. PLO security chief Mohammed Dahlan, referring to senior negotiator Dan Shomron, told Reuters: "Unfortunately the head of the Israeli delegation treats the Palestinian negotiators as if he is a military leader, and not as a negotiator."

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

Sources close to the negotiations say Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is involved in a game of brinkmanship, as has been the past pattern in peace talks. Late last night, Arafat in a militant mood, speaking in Deheishe refugee camp, called for "struggle, fight, and jihad." His speech came shortly after the Palestinians stormed out of the talks. According to senior officials, the Palestinians backedtracked on a near deal on security arrangements for Hebron last week. In a special briefing for diplomatic reporters, a senior Israeli official charged that talks are "currently treading water." Arafat is "engaging in delaying

tactics for political reasons," he said. "There is one issue left, and this was on the verge of resolution last week, until the Palestinians changed their mind. The rest was details which would have been worked out." Another senior Israeli official insisted that a written draft on security arrangements was reached during the middle of last week. However, Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat sought to unravel the agreement by making several changes which were unacceptable to Israel. Officials believe that Erekat's move could not have been carried out without Arafat's approval. "It is true that the two sides were very close on the security issues last week," a US official close to the negotiations said. "It is also true that Arafat wants to stretch out [the talks]." (Continued on Page 5)

Gov't intact despite successful vote of no confidence

LIAT COLLINS
THE opposition scored a hollow victory in the Knesset yesterday, when a majority voted no-confidence in the government over the state of the economy. But the opposition failed to muster enough MKs to topple the government. A motion filed by Labor, Hadash, and Meretz passed 45-43 with 2 abstentions (by the Moledei MKs) but under the new Basic Law: The Government, unlike in the previous Knesset, the government can only be ousted by a vote of at least 61 MKs. However, the Likud surprised the opposition by raising without warning the so-called Norwegian law, which would allow 12 ministers to resign their Knesset seats and bring in new MKs to replace them. The bill is an amendment to the Basic Law: The Government. It also calls for the inner security cabinet to be enlarged. The vote on the first reading is expected to take place next week. The no-confidence vote provided a lively end to an otherwise dull debate. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who only came into the plenum for the vote, left immediately afterward, looking a little paler, while opposition MKs were beaming. Labor Party leader Shimon Peres was abroad. (Continued on Page 5)

Syria: We're ready for war if Israeli provocations continue

ELDAD BECK DAMASCUS
A SENIOR Syrian official has warned that if Israel continues to provoke Damascus, through declarations and actions that confirm Israel's sovereignty over the Golan heights, Syria is ready for a war. However, the official stressed that Syria does not wish to have a new war and is genuinely looking for a peace agreement with Israel. According to the senior official, Damascus expects that after the US presidential election, the president and his administration will put heavy pressure on the Israeli government to force it to respect undertakings made by the Labor government concerning withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Diplomatic sources in Damascus say that US Secretary of State Warren Christopher sent the Syrian administration a message in which he promised that if President Clinton is reelected, he will put heavy pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to force him to respect all undertakings made by Rabin's government. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said over the weekend that Israel and Syria have already reached an agreement stipulating a full Israeli pullout from the Golan. "An agreement was reached on full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan on the June 4, 1967 lines and it is not sensible after all these efforts to go back to zero point in any possible talks after the American election," Shara said. According to French sources accompanying President Jacques Chirac on his Mideast tour, the Syrians explained to the French

with Israel would be very costly to Syria, but - he added - there will be many losses and victims on both sides. The French sources say that from Chirac's discussions with his Syrian counterpart, Hafez Assad, it was clear that Syria wishes to keep its commitment to the peace process. However, Chirac himself admitted in a speech he gave Saturday at an official dinner offered by Assad that "the peace process was in danger." The French sources added that part of Chirac's mission in Syria and Israel was to make sure that Damascus does not "drop the rope of peace."

Report: IAF scrambled jets on Syrian front 11 days ago

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
IAF planes scrambled to quickly confront suspicious Syrian aircraft movements over the Golan Heights 11 days ago, a sign of just how tense the situation is, Channel 2 reported last night. Although the aircraft movements did not turn out to be a threat, the TV said, it underscored the level of alert the IDF has adopted in light of the latest Syrian troop movements. Israel defense sources said they are closely monitoring the Syrians, amid growing reports that they are not just saber rattling, but preparing a military option. Next week, one of the three Syrian mechanized divisions permanently stationed along the Golan Heights is reportedly to conduct annual maneuvers, only this year the IDF will be paying close attention to the exercise, since it could quickly turn into an offensive. IDF sources have said that Israel has not reinforced its troops along the front in order not to have this misinterpreted by the Syrians. But Channel 2 said the army has continued to stage "exercises" on the Golan as a way of keeping forces on hand for any eventuality.

CORRECTION
Tuvia Erlich and Meir Linzer, mentioned in yesterday's report on the alleged Rupert Murdoch fraud scam, are two lawyers with the Tel Aviv law firm of Herzog, Fuchs, and Ne'eman, and are not managers at News Datacom. The amount involved in the alleged scam currently being investigated by tax authorities is \$150 million and not NIS150 million. The AP picture on Page 1 was that of a News Datacom employee. The employee, according to News Datacom, is not involved in any way with the investigation. The Jerusalem Post regrets the errors.

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Chirac: I'm a friend of Israel

"I COME as a friend of Israel," French President Jacques Chirac declared on arrival in Jerusalem at midday yesterday.

Ten police motorcycle escorts brought the presidential motorcade from the King David Hotel to the official welcoming ceremony at Beit Hanassi. The bugles sounded the fanfare, the French tricolor waved in the wind, the national anthems were played and President Ezer Weizman joined his guest as he reviewed an IDF honor guard.

Greeting Weizman as "a great friend of France" and a statesman who had pushed forward the peace process, Chirac said: "In the name of the people of France, I bring warm feelings and salute the people of Israel. I am sure we will further strengthen the already strong ties between us."

Turning to the peace process, Chirac said: "Your region is facing difficult times," adding that he knew Israel, like the other countries in the region, wanted peace. "We must prevent further suffering," he said.

BATSHEVA TSUR and ELDAD BECK

Chirac added that he expected his talks with Weizman and with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu today to "further the aim of peace and also the security of all the nations of the region and, in particular, Israel."

In his meeting with Netanyahu, Chirac is expected to try to convince the prime minister that it is essential for the Israeli government to respect previous commitments.

However, a senior French official stressed that France does not favor imposing international sanctions on Israel, if the Israeli government distances itself from the principles of the peace process conducted by the Labor government.

The official added that during his talks with the Palestinian leadership, Chirac will emphasize the need to control impulses that might lead to war.

The Chirac government also has the impression that the present Israeli government is less reluctant than the previous one to allow a bigger European role in the search for peace in the region.

In his remarks, Weizman stressed that he was welcoming Chirac "to Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel."

After years of wars and tens of thousands of dead, Israel is striving to include more of its neighbors in the peace, Weizman said. "We also hope to see Syria, from where you have just come, join in the process," Weizman said.

He noted France's historical role in providing Israel with arms in times of need. "We hope we will not need them in the future," Weizman added.

Over lunch at Beit Hanassi, Weizman reportedly told Chirac that he hoped the negotiations with the Palestinians would be wound up by the week's end. Chirac, for his part, briefed the president on his talks in Damascus.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu greets French President Jacques Chirac at an official welcome by President Ezer Weizman (right) at Beit Hanassi yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

No Israeli officials to accompany Chirac on Old City tour

BILL HUTMAN

FRENCH officials promised the Palestinian Authority President Jacques Chirac would not be accompanied by Israeli officials during his tour today of the Old City, because such presence would be construed as backing Israel's claim to eastern Jerusalem. PA sources said.

The French also said they would ask Israel to allow their own security people, and not Israeli policemen, to provide security for the tour, according to the sources.

"US President Bill Clinton canceled his planned tour of the Old City because of our demands that he not go with Israelis," according to one PA source. "Chirac was more open to our demands, and his people said they would try to meet them."

The tour has been designated by the Foreign Ministry as a "private visit," which makes the presence of Israeli officials unnecessary according to formal protocol. Chirac is slated to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Temple Mount, and Western Wall.

Wakf director Adnan Hussein said Chirac would be accompanied to the Temple Mount mosques by Moslem leaders, and that Wakf guards would provide security. "It is our job, not the Israelis', to provide security," he said.

However, Jerusalem Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said police would provide security throughout Chirac's Old City visit, including at the Temple Mount. "We have policemen stationed on the Temple Mount, so it is absurd to say we aren't going to be there," he said.

Ben-Ruby said Chirac's tour is being treated like any other by a foreign leader, and that contrary to the Palestinians' claims, the police force has not been requested to present a low-profile.

Meanwhile, French Deputy Minister for Health and Social Welfare Herve Gaymard met with Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, at Orient House yesterday, and reaffirmed the French position that eastern Jerusalem should be the capital of a future Palestinian state, according to Palestinian sources at the meeting.

Gaymard said the French government stands by the European Union declaration of October 1, which states, "East Jerusalem is subject to the principles set out in UN Security Council Resolution 242, notably the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and is therefore not under Israeli sovereignty," the sources said.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Hussein downplayed the cancellation of the French foreign minister's scheduled visit to Orient House, at the request of Israel. "He actually canceled his visit to Israel, not Orient House," Hussein said.

Orient House officials said they did not push hard for the visit, because they knew it would bring a sharp Israeli reaction.

No rabbis, kosher butchers left in Syrian capital

ELDAD BECK DAMASCUS

THE Syrian authorities officially allowed me - an Israeli journalist, born in Israel and representing *The Jerusalem Post* - to enter the country on a foreign passport to accompany President Chirac on his trip to Damascus.

Chirac personally intervened to convince the Syrians to permit the visit. Sources stressed that Chirac's gesture was designed to prove that France is a friend of all the countries in the region, and seriously looking to help advance the peace process.

Jerusalem Post correspondent David Makovsky had previously

visited the Syrian capital. Hours before leaving Paris for Damascus, Chirac invited eight Arab and Israeli journalists, including myself, the *Post's* correspondent in France, to his office at the Elysee Palace. It was the first time that a French president gathered journalists together from Israel and the Arab countries. The Paris-based correspondent of the Syrian news agency SANA also participated.

During Chirac's stay in the Syrian capital, I was able to meet freely with members of the Damascus Jewish community, and to attend Shabbat prayers at one of the two synagogues that are still open.

The Damascus Jewish community numbers 150 people. They have opted to stay in Syria, although the authorities allow them to leave, since they want to keep their businesses and preserve their houses and the holdings of the community.

Some Jews who emigrated to the US a few years ago have returned, since they were unable to find work. They accuse the American

(Continued on Page 5)

New Hebron arrangements an improvement, NRP told

LIAT COLLINS

THE new understandings on Hebron are a slight improvement on the previous arrangements and a wider security belt will be placed around the Jewish community there, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy told their National Religious Party Knesset faction yesterday.

They said the greatest problem remains leaving room for the Jewish community to develop and creating an area to connect all the sites with Jewish residents in the town. The faction is demanding the government present the plans for the Knesset's approval before they are initiated.

Hadash MKs, meanwhile, toured Hebron yesterday as guests of Mayor Mustafa Natshe. They called for immediate redeployment.

In a statement released after the visit, Hadash said: "Implementing the agreements on the withdrawal from

Hebron, while leaving the fanatic sect of settlers in its midst, invites lasting unrest and needless bloodshed."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat "and finally finish the agreements on leaving Hebron."

He said US negotiator Dennis Ross had left the region because he was tired of the footdragging on both sides. "The negotiations have become a matter of prestige, not security," Sarid said.

Herb Keimon adds: MK Hanan Porat (NRP) said that former chief rabbi Avraham Shapiro told the NRP Knesset faction earlier this week that the NRP should vote against Hebron redeployment.

According to Porat, Shapiro said Hebron is the heart of Eretz Yisrael, and that giving it up to non-Jews is forbidden.

Palestinian killed by stone thrown at his car

BILL HUTMAN

A PALESTINIAN man was killed last night in a stoning incident on the Ramallah bypass road, a police spokesman said. He said it was unclear whether Arabs or Jews were behind the stoning.

Palestinian sources identified the victim as Fathi Saburi, 43, of Sajin. The police spokesman said the body was being transferred to the National Forensics Institute at Abu Kabir.

A stone was apparently thrown from an olive grove, broke the windshield, and hit Saburi in the head, according to the spokesman. A passenger was uninjured. The Palestinian Police were cooperating with the Israeli police in the investigation.

Domb elected general secretary of settlers' council

HERB KEINON

AHARON Domb, the spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, and identified with the moderate wing in the council, was elected its general secretary yesterday.

Domb, a Kiryat Arba resident and one of the central figures in the council since he became its spokesman over four years ago, replaces Uri Ariel, who left the council earlier in the year to become Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's adviser on settlements.

Domb was elected by the council's executive by an 11-1 vote, with four abstentions. One council source said that Domb is likely to be opposed by the body's "ideological" wing, including Kiryat Arba local council head Zvi Katzover, Kiryat Arba activists Rabbi Eliezer Waldman and Elyakim Ha'etzni, Elon Moreh activist Benny Katzover, and

consider moving elsewhere.

Domb will be working closely with the council's chairman, Pinhas Wallerstein, who is also new to his job. Wallerstein will be responsible for setting policy, while Domb will be responsible for the council's day to day business. Wallerstein replaced Yisrael Haral.

Domb, who once served as one of the leaders of the settlement in Hebron, was the architect of the settlement council's active campaign on behalf of Binyamin Netanyahu.

The only other person considered for general secretary, and a candidate who likely would have enjoyed more widespread support to the council, was Amara head Ze'ev Hever. Hever was not interested in the post.

Domb said it was only natural that a candidate for this job would have detractors.

Domb, who in the last 10 months has twice said he was quitting the council, came under a barrage of criticism last year when he did not immediately reject a call by Uri Elitzur in the settlement journal *Nekuda* for settlers to talk with the Palestinian leadership.

He also was criticized in 1994, after the arrest of Oren Edri and a number of Kiryat Arba residents for allegedly forming an underground, when he said those arrested were "wild weeds," and that if they were representative of what the Kiryat Arba educational system produces, then he would con-

IDF confiscates Wallerstein's, 3 others' guns

HERB KEINON

SETTLEMENT leaders threatened to return all their personal weapons to the IDF if it does not rescind orders confiscating guns from a number of settlers, including Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Yona Hofman, secretary of the settlement of Ofra, said Wallerstein was among the settlement's residents who turned their guns over to the IDF last week for a periodic inspection. When the guns were returned, Hofman said he was told not to give the weapons back to Wallerstein and three others, who were all involved in shooting incidents a number of years ago.

Wallerstein was involved in a

shooting incident on the Ramallah-Ofra road in January 1988, and pleaded guilty to charges of negligence in the death of Rabah Ghanam, 16.

The incident occurred when Wallerstein, head of the Binyamin Regional Council, approached a road block of stones and burning tires. Wallerstein's car was stoned, and he got out and fired into the air to disperse a group of youths. When he got back into his car the youths approached again, and - feeling threatened - he fired at the ground in front of the youths, killing Ghanam and injuring another person.

Wallerstein was sentenced to four months' community service, 12

months' probation, and fined NIS 8,000.

Wallerstein said yesterday he has not received his weapon back from the army, but does not know the reason for the delay. Hofman, however, said he knows exactly why Wallerstein's weapon was not returned.

"The reason is clear to me," Hofman said. "They took the weapons away from people who used their weapons against rioting Arabs many years ago. We can't agree to this, and as a result we will return our weapons. Our neighbors [the Palestinians] have thousands of weapons, and from us they take the responsibility for all the security, then we won't need our weapons?"

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May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

NEWS IN BRIEF

13 journalists wounded during recent rioting
During the two days of shootings between the IDF and Palestinian Police last month, the two sides wounded 13 journalists, five of them on purpose, claims Reporters sans Frontieres, the Paris-based watchdog for reporters' rights.

The IDF shot 11, three of them intentionally, and the Palestinian Police shot two Israeli TV men, both intentionally, concluded Bassem Eid, the local representative of RSF.

Eid noted that "all those wounded by Israeli soldiers on Wednesday [September 25] were hit by rubber bullets, but all those hit on Thursday were hit by live bullets. However, the Palestinian Police used only live bullets throughout the confrontations." Jon Immanuel

Ta'anahim residents protest continuing thefts
Angry residents of the Ta'anahim communities south of Afula last night crossed the Green Line and lit a bonfire in olive groves of the Palestinian village of Z'boubia to protest what they described as the ongoing theft of agricultural equipment and property from their moshavim.

Police went to the scene, the fire was extinguished, and the residents returned to their homes. The demonstration followed an earlier protest gathering by Ta'anahim residents near their homes. David Rudge

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הללנו את אלוהים

Ambassador to US called 'traitor' at ZOA dinner

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

AMBASSADOR to the US Eliahu Ben-Elissar received a hostile reception on Sunday night when he told the Zionist Organization of America that in Israel's negotiations with the Palestinians, "not everything can be saved."

A number of patrons at a ZOA food-raising dinner in New York called Ben-Elissar a "traitor" and yelled, "You're just like Peres," when the ambassador said that Israel has "to face making concessions. We have no choice."

This was not what the ZOA loyalists had come to hear. During the Labor government, ZOA's role as the fierce antagonist of the PLO had left it at odds both with Jerusalem and with the traditional American Jewish leadership.

because of lack of compliance with the Oslo Accords. "There hasn't been as much compliance as we want to see," he said.

"My ongoing commitment is that Israel not be pressured into sacrificing its security concerns," Gilman told the ZOA dinner.

He also said that Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat was "stonewalling" on a congressional request to identify and account for PLO assets, and that the US State Department had acknowledged that it "lacks reliable information" on these assets.

Although Israel's security is an American strategic interest, Gilman also said he did not want American troops "in the alleyways and dark shadows of Hebron's streets."

Arafat's "latest request that US troops protect the Jewish population of Hebron is not going to become a reality," Gilman said.

Clinton needs to make a firmer statement that rules out such a possibility.

Ben-Elissar's speech followed, and the patros were largely dumbfounded when, instead of asserting a hard line, he seemed resigned to adhering to the Oslo accords.

"Unfortunately, I have to tell you that the PLO has been recognized by the State of Israel and we are unable to take Arafat and send him back to Tunis," Ben-Elissar said. "We will try our best to save what can be saved. Not everything can be saved."

And he seemed to be assailing part of his audience when he said, "Whoever thinks that it is practical or feasible to correct in a matter of days or weeks the historical blunders or mistakes of another Israeli government is mistaken."

The government would not commit "this kind of mistake with Syria," he said, calling on Syria to withdraw from Lebanon. Israel is ready to withdraw, with both a Syrian withdrawal and guarantees that Lebanese soil never again serve as a base for terror, he said.

Jewelry stolen from Jews by Nazis said to be held in Budapest bank

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Hungarian government has reportedly kept millions of dollars worth of jewelry which was plundered by the Nazis from Jews in the vault of the Central Bank in Budapest.

According to reports from the Hungarian capital, a senior bank official who publicized this was fired.

The official reportedly accused both the Communist government and its successors of knowing about the assets, but failing to reveal this publicly.

According to a Hebrew University researcher, much of the stolen Jewish property in the vault

may bear the names of the original owners. However, researcher Ya'acov Golan told Israel Radio that reports to this effect were not confirmed. An investigation is under way to see if there is a connection with the Jewish assets which were hidden in Switzerland after the war, he said.

It is important to stake claims to property in Hungary, since the time limit for doing so would expire in about a month, Golan said. Meanwhile, it has been revealed that the Nazis also looted

and stole property and assets worth 600-700 million Dutch guilden from the Jews of Holland during the occupation.

According to a Hebrew University study, these assets are worth considerably more in real terms today.

Researchers at the Institute for the Study of Dutch Jewry said that the Nazis looted anything that was worth money, from real estate to works of art, bank assets and insurance policies and even promissory notes.

Following the war, those Jews who remained alive had great difficulty in trying to retrieve their assets as the Dutch government did not facilitate this, the study added.

At Beit Lohamei Hageta'ot near Nahariya, an exhibition was opened yesterday evening showing the complexity of Jewish life during the Holocaust in Holland, where there were many collaborators alongside the large number of people who risked their lives to save Jews.

Several Righteous Gentiles flew in specially from Holland to attend the opening, at which the Dutch ambassador was also present.



An employee of the Institute for Halachic Science and Technology in Jerusalem shows Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eliahu Yishai (right) and Rabbi Menachem Porush a telephone that can be used without desecrating Shabbat. (Roni Na'amani)

SPNI wants to preserve undeveloped beaches

DAVID RUDGE

THE Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel yesterday launched a campaign to preserve one of last remaining stretches of undeveloped coast in the North.

In particular, SPNI is opposing plans for the development of holiday homes and a recreation park at the Hahonim beach, itself a nature reserve. It intends to stage a public rally with free guided tours at Hahonim on Saturday.

According to SPNI, the bulk of the country's 188 kilometer-long coastline is already developed, with 150 km. taken up by ports and harbors, power stations, military areas, industrial zones, hotels,

holiday villages, and tourist attractions. This has left only 38 km. of coastline - most of it between Atlit and Caesarea - in its natural state.

SPNI noted that these areas are also the last remaining open spaces where sea-turtles, an endangered species, can lay their eggs in the sand, and where beach flora and fauna can still flourish.

"We are not opposed to tourism development, but we feel it should be done in a balanced way that takes into account the whole picture," said Amit Shapira, head of

conservation and preservation of the natural environment at SPNI.

"We don't have a shortage of developed beaches and concrete promenades, but there is a shortage of natural beaches with all the wonderful plant and marine life which we want to preserve for ourselves and future generations to enjoy."

SPNI is completely opposed to any development on or alongside the Hahonim beach and is recommending that other tourism projects in the area should be added to existing facilities, to prevent harm to untouched beaches.

Mobile intensive care service resumed in Galilee

JUDY SIEGEL

MAGEN David Adom yesterday afternoon resumed its mobile intensive care unit service in the Western Galilee. This was made possible by the commitment by Knesset Interior Committee chairman Salah Tarif to negotiate with the municipalities and Kupat Holim Clalit, which owe MDA NIS 800,000.

The committee yesterday discussed the halting of MICU services since last week. Tarif said the committee would meet in two weeks in Nahariya with representatives of all

involved in the dispute, including the Health and Finance ministries, Clalit, Nahariya Hospital, and several municipalities.

MICU units contain more advanced resuscitation equipment than ordinary ambulances and are manned by a doctor and highly skilled paramedic, rather than just by a trained medic/driver.

Tarif said efforts will also be made to find a solution to the financing problem that has prevented MDA from operating MICUs all parts of the country.

National Health System ombudsman appointed

JUDY SIEGEL

NEARLY two years after the National Health Insurance Law required the appointment of an ombudsman, the government has approved Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's nomination of Dr. Karni Jabotinsky-Rubin to the post. A psychiatrist who graduated from Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, she is the granddaughter of the late Revisionist movement ideologue Ze'ev Jabotinsky.

The ombudsman will accept complaints from the public relating to the functioning of the health funds and the quality of service. Jabotinsky-Rubin was a senior psychiatrist in the Talbieh psychiatric hospital in Jerusalem, where she specialized in treating adolescents. She is also an expert in behavioral and cognitive group therapy for patients suffering from anxiety attacks and agoraphobia.

Hanegbi's predecessor, MK Ephraim Sneh, repeatedly said he would appoint an ombudsman, but never did.

Rabbinical sanctions used to persuade recalcitrants to divorce

GREER FAY CASHMAN

A LAW enacted in 1995 is proving effective in persuading recalcitrants to divorce, attorney and rabbinical leader Jan Jacobson Sokolovsky said yesterday.

Sokolovsky, who was speaking to the Success Works Association of Business and Career Women, said that since the law came into effect, rabbinical court judges are not only threatening to impose sanctions, they are actually using them in cases in which there are halachic grounds for divorce.

A *get* - a Jewish bill of divorce - is not valid, unless freely given. One of the major problems, said Sokolovsky, is to determine the limits of pressure which can be placed on a recalcitrant husband who doesn't want to give his wife a *get*. If one goes over the limit, she warned, and the husband does not give the *get* willingly, it is invalid.

However under the 1995 law, if the rabbinical court rules that a spouse has to give or accept a *get*

and that ruling is not implemented within 60 days, the judges can impose certain sanctions.

"They can't pressure, but they can withdraw privileges," said Sokolovsky, citing as examples the cancellation of credit cards, bank accounts, professional licenses, driving licenses, and passports. "These are powerful sanctions and they are working."

Awareness of the problems incurred in ending a marriage, she added, has prompted more and more young couples throughout the religious world to sign prenuptial agreements.

Survey: Nearly half of secular population have 'negative' feelings toward religious

BATSHEVA TSUR

ALMOST half of Israel's secular Jewish population - and more than a third of "traditional" Jews - have negative opinions about the religious sector, a survey has revealed.

The survey was carried out for Geshet, a non-profit organization which aims at bringing secular and religious Jews closer together, by the Modi'in Ezrachi institute.

It examined opinions among a representative sample of 505 adults nationwide and the results were published yesterday in Geshet's new publication, *Adarab*.

According to the survey, 47.3% of the respondents

expressed negative feelings toward religious people while 35.9% of those who described themselves as "traditional" felt negatively about the religious.

The major reason, for these negative feelings, according to the respondents, was the intervention of religious activists in politics.

This, they said, led to "religious coercion, control of the country and hatred for one's brothers."

Many respondents - 24.4% of the secular and 19.2% of the traditional - expressed the fear that

mixing religion with politics would endanger democracy.

Surprisingly, however, only 1.7% said they had negative feelings toward the religious sector because yeshiva students did not serve in the IDF, the researchers reported.

Other respondents described the religious population as "not upholding law and order" (4.4%), "extremists and fanatics" (7.9%), and "racist" (2.8%).

Among the respondents, 54.2% described themselves as secular, 30.3% as traditional, 9.9% as religious and 4.8% as bareidi.

The remainder did not respond.



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Who Will Prevail

Former police general implicates apartheid leaders to truth panel

FOR six months, victims of apartheid crime have told their stories to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission while alleged perpetrators remained mostly reticent.

That all changed yesterday when a former security police chief implicated two apartheid cabinet ministers and a former president in bombings against government foes in the 1980s.

"The flood wall is broken," commission deputy chairman Alex Boraine said of the revelations at an amnesty hearing for five former security police officers confessing to 40 murders.

Yesterday's hearing involved several firsts for the Truth Commission, which was formed last year to investigate apartheid-era crimes and promote reconciliation.

It was the first in which top police officials from the government's "total onslaught" campaign against anti-apartheid groups offered confessions prior to being convicted in court.

The officers, including a police brigadier, were the highest-ranking to seek amnesty so far. During the hearing, former Police Commissioner Gen.

TOM COHEN
JOHANNESBURG

Johan van der Merwe provided the first testimony directly implicating cabinet ministers.

Testifying on behalf of his five former subordinates, van der Merwe said former Police Minister Louis Le Grange approved a plan to supply defective hand grenades to anti-apartheid activists who were planning attacks on black policemen. He said the booby-trapped devices "killed and injured" a number of activists.

In 1988, van der Merwe said, former Law and Order minister Adriaan Vlok ordered him to plan the bombing of a downtown Johannesburg building that housed offices of a black labor group allied with the African National Congress.

"According to Mr. Vlok this instruction had come, from President P.W. Botha personally," van der Merwe. The explosion extensively damaged the building but caused no injuries.

For anti-apartheid groups, Van der Merwe's statements meant vindication for their longstanding claims that brutal repression

of opposition groups - including murders and torture - were planned and sanctioned at the highest levels of government.

The testimony also represented a victory for the commission, which has been forced to subpoena some military and police officials to make them appear at hearings.

The five security police officers seeking amnesty have confessed to 40 murders in the 1980s, at the height of what they called a war against anti-apartheid groups. They decided to apply after a former police colonel was convicted of six murders and 83 other charges last month.

Van der Merwe said after yesterday's hearing he also would apply for amnesty and that he believed Vlok and other top apartheid officials would be forced to do the same.

In their opening statement, the five amnesty applicants said they doubted former President F.W. de Klerk told the truth when he said he had no role or knowledge of murders and other rights abuses committed by his government. (AP)



A heckler, criticizing President Bill Clinton's foreign policy, interrupts his speech at a campaign stop in Teaneck, New Jersey, on Sunday.

Clinton mixes campaign rallies with fund-raisers for other Democrats

CLEVELAND (AP) - With national polls showing him with a comfortable lead over Republican rival Bob Dole, President Clinton is trying to balance his presidential campaigning with events to help Democratic congressional candidates.

In New Jersey and New York, states his campaign team says Dole has conceded, Clinton devoted nearly all of Sunday helping to raise campaign funds and urging New Jersey voters to elect Rep. Robert Torricelli to the Senate.

Yesterday, at Cuyahoga Community College outside Cleveland, Clinton touted his direct student loan program, which bypasses banks, as a popular success. He cited an Education Department study which said student participation in the loan program is up.

On a gray and wet day, Clinton cited the direct loan idea as an example of how he differs with Republican rival, who voted against the program's creation in 1993.

"He's tried to cut it back and cripple it ever since," Clinton said to a rain-soaked audience.

On his seventh visit to Ohio this year, Clinton

mixed public appearances with private events to raise money for Democratic congressional candidates.

Later yesterday, he was attending a Democratic National Committee fund-raising lunch in Cleveland before flying to Detroit for more campaigning and fund raising.

Dole, in turn, was in Detroit, and was to be in Ohio today.

Clinton is well ahead in both Ohio and Michigan, traditional battleground states that together hold 39 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win in November.

The US presidential election is decided by electoral votes allocated to the states by population, rather than by the nationwide popular vote. Each state's electoral votes go to the candidate that wins that state's popular vote.

The latest Ohio poll showed Clinton ahead by 14 percentage points.

In Seattle, senior presidential adviser George Stephanopoulos dismissed a reporter's question about whether Clinton would go for a personal landslide victory or try to boost the

chances of Democratic congressional candidates in close races.

"I think it's a false choice," Stephanopoulos said. "We're going to do both."

Clinton said angrily: "Saddam Hussein is oppressing his people; we're not. Secondly, Fidel Castro had Americans murdered illegally and that was wrong, too, and I'm proud that we have a blockade against people who kill innocent Americans."

He apparently was referring to the February shootdown of two planes piloted by Cuban-Americans over the Florida Straits.

The woman, carrying a sign for the Workers World Party, and a colleague were escorted out by security after Clinton said it was a private event and encouraged the sponsors to maintain order.

Japan, Portugal, Sweden among five new UN Council members

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Costa Rica, Japan, Kenya, Portugal and Sweden were elected yesterday to the powerful 15-member UN Security Council for two-year terms beginning on January 1.

Four of the five seats were hotly contested. Only the election of Kenya, as the sole candidate for an African seat, was a foregone conclusion.

Japan, which will be serving its eighth term on the council, soundly beat India by 142 votes to 40 on the first round of balloting for an Asian seat. A two-thirds majority of 120 votes, out of the 180 cast on that round, was needed for election to the council seat currently held by Indonesia.

Sweden and Portugal battered Australia in a three-cornered race for two seats reserved for the

group called West European and Others, now filled by Germany and Italy.

Sweden was elected on the first ballot, with 153 votes, while Portugal obtained 112 and Australia 91. In a second round, Portugal received 124 votes to Australia's 57.

This will be only the second council term for Portugal - it was a member in 1979-1980 - and the third for Sweden, which served in 1957-58 and 1975-76.

The council's five permanent members, with the power of veto, are the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France. Five other non-permanent members whose two-year terms expire at the end of 1997 are: Chile, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Poland and South Korea.

Argentine Jews urge action after 100 tombs vandalized

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Argentine Jewish organizational leaders and the political opposition urged security forces yesterday to put a stop to desecration of Jewish cemeteries after 100 tombs were smashed and painted with Nazi symbols.

Unidentified attackers broke into Argentina's main Jewish cemetery at La Tablada on the outskirts of Buenos Aires late on Saturday. They smashed 60 tombstones, sprayed 40 others with swastikas and daubed the cemetery with graffiti calling the Holocaust a "great Jewish lie."

"These people are prepared to kill even the dead," Oscar Hansman, head of the Argentine Jewish group AMIA, told local radio. "We demand the investigation be stepped up to find the authors of this attack. We all know its ideological origins."

Argentina is home to one of

the world's largest Jewish communities, which in the past few years has suffered two major bomb attacks and at least five cemetery desecrations. In 1994 the AMIA's headquarters was hit by a car bomb that killed 86 people, and two years earlier a car bomb exploded at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29 people.

Argentine security services have been criticized by the Jewish community, Israel and the United States for failing to track down the authors of the attacks, which have been blamed on Hizbullah.

La Tablada cemetery is guarded by a private security firm and police but Jewish leaders acknowledged that its size - 130 acres - made it difficult to watch.

"Attacks on Jewish cemeteries are becoming common. We have a serious national problem," Jewish leader Ruben

Beraja told local radio. "It's a serious problem when you have terrorist attacks and attacks like this and we don't solve the crimes."

Interior Minister Carlos Corach, himself a Jew, visited La Tablada on Sunday. Opposition Radical congressman Leopoldo Moreau demanded he explain the police's failure to keep tabs on neo-Nazi groups.

"It's unbelievable that with the Argentine intelligence services' resources and budget we don't have a clearer picture of who is responsible," Moreau, who believes whoever carried out the grave desecrations may provide clues to the two bombings, told reporters.

Clarín newspaper quoted an Israeli official saying the cemetery attack was further evidence that "in Argentina you can commit crimes against Jews without going to jail for it."

British writer seeks reward on Nazi gold-raid book

LONDON (Reuters) - A new book asserting that commandos smuggled Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler's close aide Martin Bormann into Britain brought a £20,000 (\$31,760) reward challenge on literary agent Curtis Brown.

The book *Operation James Bond*, which purports to be a real-life cloak-and-dagger saga involving Nazi gold, provoked controversy last month by saying Bormann was brought here in 1945 on wartime prime minister Winston Churchill's orders.

It suggests that British commandos staged a raid into Berlin, as the Red Army closed in, to seize Bormann and get his signature on documents releasing Nazi gold held by Swiss banks.

Author Christopher Creighton's work was disputed by another writer, Ian Sayer, who claimed a reward offered by the agents for

anyone who could disprove the book's theme.

Bormann stayed close to Hitler till the last days of the Third Reich but virtually alone among the top Nazi leaders his fate remained unknown after the war.

Some historians suggest he was killed by Russian snipers in a mass breakout from Hitler's chancellery in the ruins of Berlin. He was sentenced to death in his absence by the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal in 1946.

Creighton has insisted he was second-in-command of a 300-strong commando unit led by James Bond creator Ian Fleming that saved Bormann from the gallows.

He said the commando team spirited Bormann, who was responsible for Hitler's finances, out of Berlin to help release Nazi gold stored in Swiss banks.

The book met with such skepticism that Curtis Brown, which acts for Creighton, issued a challenge with advertisements in national newspapers last week.

They offered a £20,000 reward to anyone who could "provide evidence that Operation James Bond did not take place."

The challenge was taken up by author Sayer, who in 1984 wrote a book on the subject, titled *Nazi Gold*.

Today he sent in his claims to Curtis Brown asking that the reward money be given to charities for families and survivors of the Holocaust.

Sayer said he had proof that Creighton and the Bormann rescue team could not have traveled on a Wellington bomber of 161 Squadron in April 1945, as the book claims. He also said he had found around 120 factual inaccuracies in the book.

Two die of Legionnaires' disease in Michigan; 17 others diagnosed

SOUTHFIELD, Michigan (AP) - Seventeen cases of Legionnaires' disease have been confirmed in the Detroit suburbs, and two patients have died, health officials said yesterday.

The number could grow. Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills was awaiting test results to see if three patients admitted during the weekend also have the disease, a hospital spokeswoman said.

And Providence Hospital officials said two additional cases there had been diagnosed but not yet confirmed by Oakland County health officials.

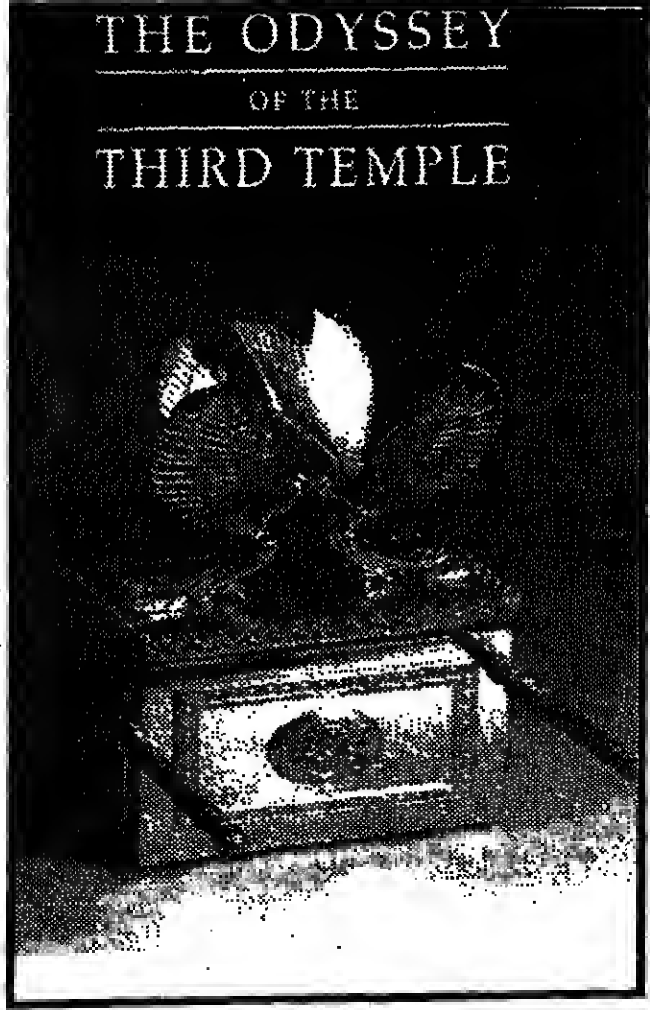
The 17 confirmed cases as of today were up from 13 during the weekend.

Most of the additional cases were older ones just being reported, said Dr. William Hall, chief of the division of Communicable Disease Epidemiology at the state Community Health Department.

"All the information we have still leads us to the conclusion that the exposure occurred late September," he said yesterday.

Oakland County health officials said all the victims apparently were exposed in a small area of the Detroit suburbs of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

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Up to 15,000 Kurd refugees enter Iran

UP to 15,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees fleeing renewed inter-Kurdish fighting in northern Iraq have crossed into Iran to join tens of thousands sheltering there since last month, relief agencies said yesterday.

The medical aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said 15,000 new refugees had arrived in Iran since Friday and warned of little food and water available to the refugees, living in cold mountain camps.

There were no recent figures on Kurdish refugees sheltering in Iran, which last month put their number at 65,000.

Laurens Jolles, an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tehran, said: "About 10,000 new refugees have crossed into Iran since Saturday, but there are still a lot more on the other

side of the border."

"Iranian officials estimate 40,000 refugees are waiting at the border, but we have not been able to confirm that figure," Jolles told Reuters by telephone from Tehran.

The new wave of refugees follows renewed fighting between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) - backed by many of the refugees - which is trying to take back territory lost last month to the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

In a statement sent to Reuters, MSF said there were about 20,000 refugees waiting on the Iraqi side of the border.

"The last refugees to arrive over the past few days have had to sleep rough. They are not being fed properly, and there is not

enough drinking water," the statement quoted one of the group's doctors as saying.

It said the camps were situated in very inhospitable terrain at 2,700 meters altitude where refugees were living in freezing conditions.

"The situation is becoming desperate. The current humanitarian response to the crisis is simply not adequate," MSF official Stephan Oberzeit was quoted as saying.

Iran, complaining of insufficient international assistance to face the influx, has repeatedly said the refugees faced bleak winter conditions at their mountain camps and held world bodies responsible for their plight.

Iran is currently home to two million refugees, 1.4 million from Afghanistan and 600,000 from Iraq, making it the world's most important host country, according to the UNHCR. (Reuters)

Almost quarter million Hutus flee Zaire fighting

ALMOST a quarter million Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees have abandoned their 12 camps around the Zairean town of Uvira, where the army is battling Tutsi rebels, and were suspected to be in the northern mountains.

The UN said it had started the evacuation of humanitarian staff from eastern Zaire and aid agency sources said unidentified fighters had entered Zaire from Rwanda overnight and attacked government army positions close to Rwandan Hutu refugee camps in the eastern Zairean town of Goma.

Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Rwanda, told Reuters some 221,000 refugees were on the move towards another eastern Zairean town, Bukavu, already cut off from Uvira by the Banyamulenge Tutsi rebels.

But other aid sources said with Bukavu cut off and fighting in Uvira and general insecurity

in neighboring Cibitoke, the refugees were in the mountains north of Uvira headed for Goma. Humanitarian officials said there was no movement of refugees from the camps surrounding Goma and insecurity meant that aid workers were kept to their compounds.

"Aid workers are confined to their compounds in Goma until the security situation clarifies," one official said.

World Food Program (WFP) spokeswoman in Nairobi Michelle Quintage told Reuters there had been reports of sounds of fire in Uvira late yesterday but Bukavu was relatively quiet.

She said a WFP Buffalo C-130 plane, which normally operates on southern Sudan, would be in Bukavu overnight on standby to evacuate a number of aid workers. The plane can carry 60.

"We just got clearance a few minutes ago but it is too late. We will try to go in tomorrow morning," Quintage said.

In Addis Ababa, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) said in a statement issued in Addis Ababa that it viewed with concern the events in eastern Zaire and was sending a mission to assess the exodus of refugees in the Great Lakes region.

Earlier yesterday, the UN said it had started to evacuate humanitarian staff from eastern Zaire, as battles between the Banyamulenge and the Zaire's ragged army intensified.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) resident representative in Rwanda Omar Bakhet told Reuters the evacuation operation that began late on Sunday had already moved 20 humanitarian staff out of the war zone.

Bakhet could not say if the operation, which was continuing, would involve UN staff. (Reuters)

Ex-Communists headed for defeat

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) - The first country to return to Communism after the Soviet Union's collapse is throwing them out again.

The former Communists who have been governing this Baltic nation since 1992 were headed for a near-certain ouster yesterday, trailing badly in vote-counting from parliamentary elections.

The Conservative Party led by Vytautas Landsbergis, a hero of Lithuania's independence struggle and head of state at the time of the 1991 Soviet breakup, was poised to head a new government with a big lead over all other parties.

With more than half the ballots counted - from 1,495 of 2,037 polling stations - the Conservatives had 29.3 percent of Sunday's party-list vote, election officials said last night.

The Christian Democrats, their most likely coalition partners, were second with 10.2 percent.

The ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (LDDP) - the former Communists - had only 9.9 percent, barely ahead of the Lithuania Center Union with 8.3 percent and the Social Democrats with 6.8 percent.

Four other parties were below the 5 percent threshold required to win seats.

The elections were Lithuania's second since it won independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The LDDP had defeated Landsbergis' Sajudis movement in 1992.

The LDDP has lost public support even though their economic reforms are beginning to bear fruit. Many Lithuanians say their economic situation has worsened and they are more worried about crime and corruption.

President Algirdas Brazauskas told national radio yesterday that the ruling party and its government "have done a lot of good, have stabilized the economy but have made some major mistakes for which [we] have paid."

Landsbergis is expected to be elected to the influential position of chairman of parliament, which has the final say on the makeup of a new government, after easily winning his race for a single-mandate seat.

He and his right-wing party promised to guarantee market reforms and maintain continuity in foreign policy.

Landsbergis said his victory would mean Lithuanians will "live with more hope and with great trust. The road is going to be straighter and life is going to be more decent."



This painting by Friedrich Von Amerling, entitled 'The Oriental' and valued at between \$47,000 and 74,000, is one of more than 8,000 artworks seized by the Nazis during World War II that will be auctioned at Vienna's Museum of Applied Arts next week. Proceeds from the sale of artifacts valued at some \$3.5 million will go to victims of the Holocaust. (AP)

Algiers mayor killed during gunbattle

PARIS (Reuters) - The mayor of Algiers was killed in the Algerian capital yesterday when he was apparently hit by a stray bullet from a gunbattle between Moslem guerrillas and security forces, residents and officials said.

A resident reached by telephone said it "seems" Mayor Ali Boucetta was hit by a stray bullet in the Telemely district of Algiers as security forces stormed a nearby hideout for Islamist rebels. A senior government official confirmed Boucetta's death but gave no details.

Cherif Rahmani, special minister in charge of administering the overcrowded city of Algiers, sent a message of condolence to Boucetta's family in which he said the mayor's death was a "cruel loss."

"There was a huge operation carried out by security forces hunting down gunmen in a neighborhood at Telemely. We heard several bursts of gunfire," said one resident speaking by telephone from his home in Telemely, a middle-class district overlooking central Algiers.

"It seems he [Boucetta] was hit by a stray bullet," the resident said.

Ali Boucetta, like hundreds of other mayors, was appointed by the authorities to replace Moslem militant mayors sacked in late 1992 after their radical Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) party was banned.

The authorities had accused militant mayors of turning the country's townhalls into a 'spider's web' for Moslem guerrillas.

The FIS won control of most of Algeria's townhalls and councils in local elections in June 1990 and took a commanding lead in the 1991 general election which was annulled in January 1992.

Moslem guerrillas have killed dozens of appointed mayors and other local officials. An estimated 50,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence since the cancellation of the general election.

Egyptian police round up 56 Shi'ite Moslems in anti-government plot

CAIRO (AP) - Security forces have arrested 56 Shi'ite Moslems and sympathizers allegedly aiming to foment an Iranian-style revolution in Egypt, the Interior Ministry said yesterday.

The crackdown followed a government campaign last month to confiscate Shi'ite books from Cairo shops. There also were articles in state-run newspapers critical of the minority Moslems.

An Interior Ministry statement said the arrests were made in five provinces, including Cairo. It said the group aimed at carrying out "a popular uprising similar to the Islamic revolution in Iran" led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979.

The statement said some of the detainees had established contact with Iran and suggested that this helped them raise 100,000 Egyptian pounds (\$30,000) to fund their activities.

It said eight members of the group had visited Iran.

The vast majority of people in Egypt are from the mainstream Sunni Moslem sect, and only a small minority are Shi'ites. Moslem extremists who have waged a campaign of violence for more than four years to try to overthrow the government are largely Sunnis.

Earlier this month, Egyptian media reported that police arrested Sheikh Hassan Shahata, a Sunni preacher at a mosque in downtown Cairo who allegedly was propagating Shi'ite theology.

The Interior Ministry statement referred to Shahata as "the Shi'ite" and said he was playing a major role in the nascent group by spreading Shi'ite philosophies.

The statement said that during the arrest raids, police confiscated computers, printing presses, books and tapes.

VOTE

(Continued from Page 1)

The plenum had been almost empty for most of the nearly four-hour debate, but MKs spilled in for the final vote. Although the speakers had been largely interrupted, as the results became clear opposition MKs heckled Speaker Dan Tichon and coalition chairman Michael Eitan as they explained that the vote was insufficient to bring the government down.

Labor Transport Minister Moshe Katsav admitted the incident was "embarrassing."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "Under the new law there is admittedly a government, but there is no confidence in it. The government didn't fall officially, but from the public and moral point of view, it is from today an opposition. The vote does not promise the government a long life."

Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) withdrew his party's own no-confidence motion on the economic plight in the Arab sector, saying the first vote "had already proven there is no confidence in the government."

Labor faction chairman Raanan Cohen said the majority in the no-confidence motion "was the Knesset's birthday present to Netanyahu. It's a present which shows the government's poor and sloppy handling of economic policy."

During the debate, former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor) attacked the government for its decision-making policy and the poor relations between Netanyahu, Finance Minister Dan Meridor, and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel.

"It's a recipe for a economic failure," Shohat said.

He said the government had not taken economic decisions, except for those relating to the 1997 budget, which faced heavy criticism among the coalition as well as opposition.

Shohat also criticized the government for scaring away foreign investors.

He accused Netanyahu of using

"amateurs" to form his economic policy and said the Finance Ministry has no idea of what economic program to expect in January.

Meridor dismissed Shohat's charges. He admitted the economy needs some "adjustments," but said the problems had started in 1995 under the Labor government. He said there had been six years of growth before that, which included the period around the Madrid Conference under the Likud.

He called on his fellow ministers to accept that budget cuts need to be made, and not to accept them only if they were made in somebody else's ministry.

He presented figures to back up his claims that the economic growth had started under the Likud and slowed down under the last government, and asked Shohat why he had not made the cuts last year.

Haim Oron (Meretz) accused the government of failing to take or stick to decisions in both economic and political issues.

Regarding the Norwegian law, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said it would allow ministers to spend more time on the affairs of their office, while making the Knesset committees more efficient.

He also said it is in the spirit of the basic law, which allows the premier to appoint ministers who are not MKs.

Although Labor has traditionally favored the Norwegian law, the faction decided to oppose it when it comes up for a vote.

The discussions on the subject among Labor MKs did not pass quietly. Uzi Baram told the faction meeting that Labor had always supported the Norwegian law and even included it in previous platforms. "Even if we didn't implement it, changing our stand simply because we're now in opposition would harm the party's credibility and image," he said.

Haggai Merom ridiculed the bill, saying, "You can't bind the whole country to this just because two or three people didn't get elected."

SYRIA

(Continued from page 2)

Jewish community and US authorities of not having done enough to help them get acclimated.

"Here we have a good life, while there they want us to become beggars. If they wish us to leave Syria, they must help us to get houses and jobs," said David Bukai, who returned from the US a few months ago.

However, a majority of the community has left for the US or Israel, leaving behind no religious infrastructure. Damascus has no more rabbis or kosher butchers. A rabbi from Istanbul visits every two months to arrange ceremonies and take care of other religious affairs.

Members of the Jewish community say that the authorities have improved their attitude toward them. "They protect us and respond to all our demands," Rose Ozon said.

A senior French official said that for years French officials said that Syria had refused to visit Syria, since Damascus did not allow Syrian Jews to leave.

During his 42-hour visit to Damascus, Chirac met three times with President Hafez Assad for private discussions regarding the situation in the Middle East, the future of the peace process, and bilateral ties.

The senior French official said that Chirac intended to bring up the issue of Israeli MIAs, including missing airman Ron Arad. Chirac also intended to try to get information about Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner, who according to several sources has been living in Syria. Brunner was responsible for the deportation of tens of thousands of Jews from France to Auschwitz.

The official emphasized that Chirac has been trying for years to get information about the MIAs, without any success.

ROSS

(Continued from Page 1)

According to an Israeli close to the negotiations, Ross left because the Hebron talks hit a deadlock after the Palestinians insisted on linking 34 issues to the Hebron discussions. The result was an unraveling of the Hebron security issues and a delay in progress on municipal issues.

Arafat met last night with Hebron notables in Bethlehem to discuss the progress made in the Hebron redeployment talks. The meeting followed a visit to Hebron by Arafat yesterday. Arafat had not visited Hebron since the PA was established in June 1994.

Last week, the Israeli negotiators refused to discuss a package deal including Hebron, saying that would only delay redeployment in Hebron. But Shomron agreed to discuss the other issues as a separate package deal after the Hebron issue was resolved.

The Palestinians brought in the other issues when the Hebron talks appeared to be reaching their conclusion, apparently in an attempt to secure Israeli concessions for their concessions in Hebron and to ensure the continuation of the talks.

After Ross intervened, it appeared that Shomron's suggestion was accepted. But in Sunday's talks this turned out not to be the case. His assertion at a press conference yesterday that the framework was intact and only technical issues needed to be resolved appeared to be under challenge.

Another problem involves the attempt by Israel to limit municipal control in the area of the Jewish quarter. Although the talks have been divided between a security and a civil affairs committee for the sake of facilitating progress in small negotiating groups, the civil affairs committee's Israeli team, headed by government coordinator in the territories Maj-Gen. Oren Shohar, is presenting its reservations about the height of buildings as a security concern.

CHIRAC

Chirac, prior to his speech, was presented with a letter by Technion President Ze'ev Tadmor, on behalf of the university's Students Union. The letter urged him to use his considerable influence with Arab leaders to help free captive airman Ron Arad, a former student, at the Technion, who has been missing for 10 years.

CHIRAC

(Continued from Page 1)

the Lebanon problem, apparently a refer

ence to the government's "Lebanon First" proposal, would not be reached independently of "the other parts of the peace process and will have to be fitted into it."

As regards the role of France and the European Union in the

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Two feet

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

I'm not one of those who feels it's time to mourn when he hears about a secular Jew "finding religion."

Personally I don't believe in a God who loves the people of Israel more than other peoples, who punishes wrongdoers and compensates his favored in the next world. But I have no problem with those who find peace and solace in religion - even the haredi variety - as long as the choice is truly their own.

In our day there seems, here and elsewhere, to be a much greater move toward religion than away from it, and surely no one would say that the "opium of the masses" isn't preferable to the chemical substances so many of those who have "lost their way" take solace in, often with horrendous results.

Having said that, several aspects of Israel's "penitence phenomenon" disturb me.

First is the fact that the return to religion seems to take human beings who were taught to think, solve problems and generally have a mind of their own and turn them into beings totally dependent on the utterances of their rabbis.

Recently I was given the honor of driving the 38-year-old newly-religious daughter of my best friend to her wedding.

Like most brides she was hysterical. However, her hysteria didn't stem from the great change that was about to occur in her life, but on such trivial matters as whether she ought to be praying during the ride to her wedding.

Fortunately modern rabbis are equipped with cellular phones, and so the bride was able to ascertain by means of a quick phone call that she had already prayed enough.

BUT THIS question remained to haunt me: Why should a bright, educated woman have been rendered so helpless? Shouldn't she, after several years of religious studies, still be able to use her head?

The phenomenon of dependence is especially worrying in the present climate, where we have spiritual leaders like Rabbi Ovadia Yosef telling their flocks that the secular courts are wicked, and that there's nothing supreme about the Supreme Court.

My friend whose daughter was getting married - and the wedding was a truly joyous and enjoyable event - is a widow who lost her son several years ago in a motorcycle accident.

Despite these circumstances, the "great rabbi" present (not the daughter's personal rabbi) declared that the rebetzin should give the bride away seeing that my friend is secular. There was no compassion, no feeling, no *men-schlichkeit*, just a cold halachic ruling.

My friend is a strong-willed woman; her response was, in effect, "over my dead body," and the rabbi gave in. The daughter, who loves her mother dearly, was too scared to open her mouth. Fear of the "great rabbi" took precedence over honoring a parent, it seems.

The newly-religious seem quite happy to abandon a world in which standing on one's own two feet is deemed worthwhile for one that appears to despise any form of independence. And the material side of the coin is every bit as disturbing as the emotional one.

Again, I am not one of those who feels that money given for religious purposes is money down the drain. On the contrary, I see no reason why religious schools and other religious institutions shouldn't enjoy public support.

But it is highly disturbing to see the religious sector, which cannot produce the resources it needs to thrive or even survive, time and again showing contempt for the nonreligious sector sweating to produce those resources; and encouraging the newly-religious to leave their jobs so they can spend all or most of their time in study.

What would be so bad about a religious sector able to stand on its own two feet? Why can't the kingdoms of David and Solomon be the model for our modern haredim?

Why does their model have to be that of *schnorr* and the *haluka* (fund distribution) of Jewish history's less glorious days?

What, if it comes to that, is wrong with the slogan of Mitzrahi and Bnei Akiva - *Torah va'avo-da* (Torah and labor)?

The writer is a political scientist.



ULEG 98

Paper and pandering

WHAT is Prime Minister Netanyahu's goal in Hebron? To reach an agreement that, on paper, is palatable to his coalition, or one that comes to grips with the reality on the ground?

AARON LERNER

There are troubling signs that the former may be the case. And the most dangerous temptation for anyone dealing with the thorny issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict is to ignore reality.

Last week Netanyahu turned his back on reality when he told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that there is no proof of Arafat having given an order for his police to target and kill Israeli soldiers in the recent rioting.

It isn't a particularly convincing argument, not always in history has it been easy to provide documented evidence of the "smoking gun," in other words, of a leader directly ordering an illegal act.

Arafat's incendiary rhetoric immediately before the rioting and his enthusiastic television and radio propaganda during the fighting helped sustain the outrage.

So why did Netanyahu say there was no evidence? Does he believe that or want to believe it, or does he just want the nation to believe it?

If the former, one can at least take solace in the hope that the prime minister may be brought to dangerous concessions in the peace process, the situation is

THIS approach of ignoring reality can be seen in the way Science Minister Benny Begin's frequent warnings are received at cabinet meetings.

Rather than addressing the reams of material Begin brings to the meetings, Minister of Health Tzahi Hanegbi told a *Ha'arets* reporter last week, "I only hope that the quotes Begin brings to cabinet meetings have less significance than he gives them."

"These children are all our children," proclaimed Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai when 50 Jewish kindergarteners greeted him in Hebron on Sunday, "but we are talking about an era of peace."

If the terms of the redeployment agreement take peace as a given, if they just assume that the Jews and Arabs of Hebron will henceforth live together in harmony and tranquility, certainly there will be no security.

Just last week Palestinian negotiators warned that Palestinian soldiers would shoot any Israeli

soldier who dared to cross into Arab Hebron. They have also made it clear that they have no intention of extraditing murderers, disarming militias or maintaining order if future talks go sour.

And when one considers that the Palestinian demands for a final arrangement - including such things as the division of Jerusalem and the return of refugees - would be unacceptable even to Meretz and Labor, there is every reason to expect that the talks will eventually reach an impasse.

There can be only one reasonable response to such a blunt warning as we have received from the Palestinian negotiators: Armed Palestinians must be barred from Hebron. Anything less is an invitation to disaster.

Considering recent events, it is hardly an unreasonable "confidence-building measure" demanded from the Palestinian side.

Hebron will serve as a watershed for the Netanyahu government.

If it accepts an agreement that looks good on paper but proves unworkable in the field the prime minister will have launched his government on the road to the abyss his supporters thought they had avoided when they got him elected last May.

Is Netanyahu sacrificing reality for a quick agreement in Hebron?

The writer is an associate of IMRA (Independent Media Review & Analysis).

Government as 'new broom'

THE previous Likud governments - those led by Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir - are associated in the minds of many Israelis old enough to remember with the fiasco of the war in Lebanon, the three-digit hyperinflation that went on for years, and the bank shares collapse that threatened to bring down the economy.

YOSEF GOELL

The main thing wrong with those governments was their failure to serve as "new brooms" for sweeping a myriad of public areas begging for innovative governance.

The ideological and "high-policy" differences between Israel's two major blocs are quite real. But the areas of political and governmental activity that have the greatest impact on our daily lives lie mostly outside the realms of ideology and high policy that dominate our public debate.

Begin's Likud came to power in 1977, unseating Labor, which with its Mafai predecessor had ruled Israel for the previous 29 years. Labor, the dominant political body that led Israel to independence and continued to lead it in the pioneering formative years, was clearly worn out, internally divided and dispirited.

Any new body supplanting it should have come in expecting to serve as a new broom, full of new ideas for solving the problems of the old politics had given up on. We should have seen new people bringing new energies and capabilities to those tasks.

But the Begin and Shamir governments failed miserably to live up to such expectations. The quality of the ministers in those governments was miserable, if not outright embarrassing (how many still remember Minister of Economic Development Ya'acov Meridor's promise to light up all of Ramat Gan from the energy produced by a spoonful of a new invention?)

By 1977 Labor had also become corrupt. The Likud didn't even go through the motions of trying to bring in clean govern-

ment; it proceeded to take off from where Labor had left off, plumbing new depths of corruption.

Binyamin Netanyahu is a Likud leader of a new generation and a new breed. Nonetheless, the first four months of his premiership indicate that he is in danger of falling into the trap of his Likud predecessors.

The lackluster (to use a vast understatement) quality of his ministers, and the far-reaching neglect of issues and problems that do not directly bear on the Palestinian-territories complex, only heighten the gloomy possibility.

Let me go to more non-political arenas, however, for evidence of serious recent problems crying out for innovative new-broom government.

An 11-year-old schoolboy who committed suicide left a note that saying that he had been hounded in school because his parents had failed to pay the enormous school fees. There is every reason to believe that schools holding children to ransom to force their parents to cough up is rampant throughout the system.

Education to age 18 is ostensibly free; but we all know it costs parents well over NIS 1,000 a year per child to pay for that "free" education.

It's one of those Israeli self-delusions where one thing is said officially while the opposite is practiced. What is urgently needed isn't more excuses from ministry spokesmen but a major shakeup that will bring theory and practice into line, relieving a large proportion of parents of an unbearable burden.

For the second straight summer we have had a disastrous forest fire in the Jerusalem Corridor. The fire brigades operated in classic Keystone Kops fashion.

The fires not only did extensive material damage, they gouged deep scars in our esthetic souls. The beautiful forests of the Jerusalem Corridor, planted with so much toil and sweat, were one of the glories of this country.

It turns out that the recommendations of the commission of inquiry established to find the causes of last summer's disastrous fire were totally ignored. And Minister of Interior Suissa had the gall to find that no official body had malfunctioned in either of the fires.

This isn't a matter that can be left in the hands of Suissa or Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani. It requires the attention and head-knocking clout of a prime minister.

Let me assure him that the future ecology and beauty of the Jerusalem Corridor will have a much greater impact on the spirit of Israel than the fate of a few hundred religious fanatics in Hebron.

The list is a long one. The need for "new-broom" governmental creativity is a worthy challenge for a young and vigorous prime minister at the beginning of his term. If he doesn't begin to address such problems now, he never will.

I'd like to remind the prime minister that there are issues besides the peace process that need his attention

The writer comments on current affairs.

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PA pressure tactics

Dennis Ross, the US administration's special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, took pains at his press conference yesterday to say that his decision to leave the region was a positive rather than a negative sign. Ross said he was able to leave because a framework of communication and negotiation was already in place, and the talks had progressed to a level of detail which made his presence unnecessary.

This seems to support what Israeli officials have been saying for the past week: that the talks are progressing and an agreement could be reached soon.

The Palestinian side, in contrast, continues to maintain that the talks are stuck, with no agreement in sight. Palestinian officials were quoted yesterday as warning that US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk and US Consul in Jerusalem Edward Abington, who are to take over Ross's role, will be incapable of breaking the impasse.

Translated, this means the Palestinians fear that Ross's departure means an end to any chance that the US will pressure Israel into accepting Palestinian demands. American pressure has been the Palestinian Authority's goal from the start, and both the Israeli and US governments have suspected for the past week that PA leader Yasser Arafat was deliberately trying to drag the talks out until after the US elections, in the hopes that a reelected President Bill Clinton would be much tougher on Israel.

The US is to be commended for refusing to play Arafat's game. Administration officials last week took the unusual step of telling the PA that US policy in the talks would remain unchanged even after the elections, so there was no point in delay tactics. Ross's departure - accompanied by a press conference in which he explicitly refuted the Palestinian claim of "no progress" - was an even stronger message that the US does not intend to serve as Arafat's tool.

This stand is especially welcome because foreign pressure on Israel does little to encourage Israeli support for the peace process. Most Israelis endorse the attempt to reach a negotiated settlement with the Palestinians, but they also want vital Israeli interests to be protected. When Arafat attempts to muster international pressure against Israel instead of solving his problems through bilateral negotiations, it creates the unpleasant impression that he is more interested in obtaining unilateral concessions than in reaching a genuine *modus vivendi* with the Jewish state. It also arouses Israeli fears of being forced to sacrifice vital interests. Neither is conducive to the formation of a genuine and lasting peace.

However, Arafat's attempts to play the international pressure card are far from being his most objectionable tactic. Much more worrying are the repeated threats of renewed violence if his demands are not met.

Sari Nusseibeh, president of Al-Quds University and a leading Palestinian figure, put this threat in the clearest possible terms at a conference at Hebrew University on Sunday. He said that if the talks broke down over Hebron, or any other interim agreement issue, "this will mean clashes, a war between Israel and its neighbors."

Another possibility, Nusseibeh said, is that the talks could break down over final status issues, such as Jerusalem. In this case, he said, the result would also be war.

Israel's insistence on maintaining Jerusalem as its undivided capital, he added, would certainly cause such a breakdown.

Even the most forthcoming of Israeli governments, however, will eventually encounter some Palestinian demand it cannot stomach. The previous government, for instance, had apparently agreed to a division of Jerusalem, but even it would not accept the demand for an Arab right of return to pre-1967 Israel. Thus, under Nusseibeh's scenario, Israel's only choices are war now or war later. If that is the case, what incentive does Israel have for continuing the talks? Making additional concessions now would only mean that when the final breakdown came, Israel would be facing a larger, more well-equipped Palestinian army in control of more strategic territory.

It is high time both Israel and the world made it clear that threats and pressure are unacceptable and counterproductive negotiating tactics. Ross took a welcome step in this direction via his departure and accompanying press conference yesterday. Now Arafat must show that he understands the message.

The Hebron agreement would be one good place to start. Arafat's unhappiness with the changes being demanded by Israel - both on security issues and with respect to Israel's insistence on having some civilian control over the Jewish community there - is very understandable, as these changes would clearly constitute a retreat from what Labor gave him last year. However, his stated reason for objecting - that he does not want the city divided into two parts, one Jewish and one Arab - is precisely why Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is right to make these demands.

The reality is that there already are two communities in Hebron. No one expects Arafat to like this. But as long as 450 Jews remain in Hebron, Netanyahu is correct that Israel must ensure they can continue to live in safety and lead normal lives.

If Arafat is not prepared to consent to these very minimal changes in the agreement, it will be hard to believe that what he wants is peace, rather than unilateral concessions.

If, however, Palestinian officials do not cease threatening Israel with war, believing that peace is the PA's goal will be not only hard, but impossible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

Sir, - I cannot shake the feeling, in light of recent events, and considering the road ahead, that we are finally witnessing what Israeli politicians have failed to achieve, a reconciliation between the majority factions in our badly divided society.

Rabin's and Peres's arrogance and contempt for a large segment of Israeli society was demonstrated in the secret Oslo negotiations and by their demonization of any Israeli sector that disagreed with them. Netanyahu's incompetence and contempt for a large Israeli segment that does not agree with him is also plainly evident. Under both governments, Jews died. Under both governments, Ezer Weizman is sent to soothe the divides; under Rabin, to funerals of Jews murdered in the West Bank and Gaza, and under Netanyahu, to Arab regimes to repair damaged relations.

This "peace process" was never simply a political stratagem. It entailed basic questions that rent the Jewish soul; entry into the world economy vs. the redivision of Jerusalem, international guarantees vs. withdrawal from the Golan, biblical Jewish sites handed over to people who despise us vs. the promise that our sons won't have to die in the coming years.

I never agreed with the Israelis I have heard declare that the Israeli "man on the street" is too primitive to appreciate the nuances of these

historic issues and that, therefore, Israel always needs a "strong" leader to push society in one particular direction. However, it also seems unwieldy to present these questions in some perpetual referendum that would constantly chart public opinion. Our recently elected governments do not reflect final answers to these questions and it is far too easy to state that each successive government has a "mandate" to pursue its own path.

It is terrible to state it, but the conclusion is inescapable; the death of Jewish settlers, suicide bombing victims, and, most recently, of our slaughtered soldiers, all derive from a Jewish consensus not yet achieved. The politicians did not create it, they cannot solve it, and the real political leader with sufficient wisdom to initiate a national reconciliation has yet to appear.

I do not believe that it is impossible to unite Israeli society, despite extremism. The real "peace handshake" will be between Shimon Peres and Binyamin Netanyahu. If these leaders cannot seize the moment, the people eventually will. The majority Israeli electorate has given, and is giving, each side an opportunity to display leadership. If their "vision" does not succeed in uniting us, their respective failures surely will.

JONATHAN FOLLENDER
Jerusalem (Denning, N.Y.)

DUAL DUTIES

Sir, - It cannot be physically possible for one man to perform the duties of a member of parliament and mayor of Jerusalem at the same time without sacrificing one to the detriment of the other. It is not logical that one person should hold two such senior positions concurrently. Many important issues requiring the immediate attention of the mayor must be delayed when he is absent, attending the Knesset or abroad on parliamentary business.

If Mr. Olmert was honest with himself and the public, he would relinquish his seat in the Knesset or resign as mayor of Jerusalem. Ronni Milo retired from the Knesset when he was elected mayor of Tel Aviv.

The recent law making it illegal for a member of the Knesset to have an outside interest should be enforced and not left to the whims of the individual.

JULIUS COLLINS
Jerusalem.

MORAL EQUIVALENCE

Sir, - Abraham Rabinovich (October 11) doesn't "assign" wickedness to political opponents, even if they try to kill me. But when rocks the size of a basketball are hurled at a moving vehicle, it is attempted murder, not just the price Mr. Rabinovich must pay for being one of those "professional voyeurs" - a journalist - in Israel.

Rabinovich says that his predators are only doing "their thing," as he does his, as the Israeli soldiers who rescued him do theirs, and so he has no grievance against those who put him in the hospital. But only those afflicted with a terminal case of moral equivalence could compare our soldiers with indiscriminate would-be murderers. Had Rabinovich not protected his head with his arm, he would have had his head bashed in. Had he been unable to get to the army checkpoint, he could have been trapped and burned alive with these guns standing right there watching. And the nation, his nation, would have cried bitter tears for yet another tragic loss.

Mr. Rabinovich does, however, assign wickedness, not to his potential killers, but to "fanatics, whether in my camp or the other, who are unwilling to acknowledge the same measure of human grace in the other as they do in themselves." This, after speaking to his right-wing friends who expressed dismay that he could be so forgiving of those responsible for his injuries. Had I been one of those friends, I would have wondered if my good pal might not have suffered brain damage. I cannot defend Rabinovich from himself, but I must defend our soldiers, who protect this country and everyone living here in the most humane way possible.

Our children are not raised to hate our Arab neighbors, nor are they taught that the most expedient way to political solutions is to heave murderous stones or shoot guns at innocents. I pray that one day soon our neighbors will show us this same human grace.

ADINA STEELE
Jerusalem.

كانا من الاصل

האזנה מן האוהל

Two feet
AN HATTIS ROLE

Laughing at British pomp

HELEN KAYE

THE Times of London is not usually given to outbursts of any kind, but at the end of the Rejects Revenge (RR) Peasouper performance last January, drama critic Jeremy Kingston wrote that "at the end I shouted 'Hoorah.' Twice."

"He did," says Tim Hibberd, "We saw him, and he was the only one shouting, sitting right in the front row."

Hibberd, David Alison and Arn Farrar, all in their late 20s, are the artistic directors, co-founders and actors of Rejects Revenge which is based in Liverpool, the city that gave us the Beatles. This is the first visit here for Alison and Farrar; Hibberd toured the country last summer with a girlfriend who has family here.

They are the creators of Peasouper, which won all the Fringe prizes around at the 1995 Edinburgh Festival. The first of 11 local performances is at Beit Gabriel on the Kinneret tomorrow.

A "peasouper" is, what the British call one of those dense fogs where you literally can't see beyond the end of your nose. But this one is a most unimpressive and mad comedy in which the three, starting off as stiff-upper-lipped Victorians all, change gender, characters (whether human or ani-

mal) and location as they take their breathless audience on a breathtaking chase after a purloined pearl-with-a-curse across the world, with stops in a London courtroom, an Egyptian tomb and even the Wild West.

"We work very closely together," says Hibberd over the phone from Liverpool, "and we tend to start with historical periods. The Victorian era gave us so many images, not just English, but from around the world."

Hibberd decided to become an actor during his third year of Medieval and Modern History at Liverpool University, "when I went along with a friend to an audition, and I got the part."

He met Farrar at a local theater company and she had met Alison, who'd switched from Environmental Science to Rock Music, at an arts workshop. The three of them formed Rejects Revenge in 1990, literally in revenge for their rejection at various auditions.

RR calls itself a physical theater company "which means," Hibberd explains, "that we begin to play on stage with the characters' movement and sensations. Physical theater is about not cluttering up the stage with sofas and chairs but using space and the imagination to take the audience to other places.



The three characters in 'Peasouper' change gender, characters and location.

The best kind of British humor - just think of popular TV series like Yes Minister and Fawlty Towers - has a solemn, total, offbeat and merciless nuttiness to it.

"We've honed laughing at ourselves to a fine art as a response to our stuffy, pompous, self-glorifying history," Hibberd agrees, laughing. "It's a particularly 20th-century humor."

So how did the Albanians respond when they took Liverpool - a show they'd done in Liverpool, Budapest and at the 1994 Spring

Festival in Thessaloniki, Greece, there? (RR was the first foreign theater company ever to play in that country.)

"They'd talk all through the show," he recalls, "which unnerved us at first until we realized that the Albanians who spoke English were translating for those that didn't, and then everybody laughed. They'd never seen this kind of theater before. The best thing was that the next summer, a group of Albanian students came over and did a workshop with us,

and now they've started physical theater there."

Although they devise and write their own shows, RR hires directors to stage them.

Peasouper director is Bini Mason, who also directed Crumble which won the Independent newspaper's Critics Prize at the '94 Edinburgh Fringe.

And as they get older? Hibberd fields the question as deftly as Indiana Jones his whip. "We'll have to evolve. It's a very exciting prospect."

Orthodoxy takes to the airwaves

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THERE'S a fresh breath of Judaism in the air. It's coming via Radio Kol Hai on 93 FM, and from early next month, listeners from Hadera to Gadera will be able to tune in 24 hours a day, barring Shabbat and Jewish Holy Days.

Station manager Shaul Mayzlish, who hopes that the broadcasts from the regional station will also be picked up in Jerusalem and on shortwave radio, describes the new venture as the "completion of the Jewish broadcast revolution."

Unlike Arutz 7, Radio Kol Hai is totally apolitical, and it's also completely legal, so it won't have to resort to offshore transmission.

Not all the franchisees are themselves Orthodox, says Mayzlish, but those who aren't "have purchased their place in Paradise."

To introduce itself to the public, the station will tonight run a panel discussion on Judaism and Communications at the Einav Center on the roof of Tel Aviv's Gan Ha'ir in the presence of Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer.

Among the panelists will be Rabbi Israel Eichler, well known to viewers of Israel Television's Popolitica. Eichler will have his own daily slot on Radio Kol Hai. But his will be only one of the views reflected. The aim of the station, according to Mayzlish, is to be "pluralistic and balanced."

Does this mean that it will offer its microphone to Reform rabbis?

When it comes to polemics, the answer is "yes." Panel discussions on subjects such as justice in Judaism, would definitely

include a Reform rabbi, but not without the input of an Orthodox rabbi. Women too will be included on panels dealing with subjects such as agunot.

In fact, in planning the broadcast line-up both gender and generation considerations have been taken into account. Broadcasts for and by women will be relayed during the morning hours. Thus Orthodox male listeners who are strict in their observance of the prohibition against listening to a woman singing will know not to tune in before noon.

Broadcasts will include a mix of prayers, news, current affairs, literature, economics, music, religious education and questions of faith.

There will also be English lessons for the benefit of haredi children who do not learn English at school, a Yiddish hour for adults, the possibility of a late-night English hour for adults and various spots in Russian. The 5 p.m. news is linked to that of Channel 2 television.

On an ideological level, says Mayzlish, the raison d'être behind Radio Kol Hai is to bridge the gaps between secular and religious and between the different religious streams in Judaism. "We want to show something clean and positive."

But beyond that lofty ideal, Radio Kol Hai is a commercial enterprise which is in business to make money. Commercials range in price from NIS 65 to NIS 495 depending on whether they are for five, 10, 20 or 30 seconds and whether or not they are aired at prime time.

Advertisers can also commission jingles. The charge for full production services for a 30-second jingle is \$1,500.

Country rockers weather the storm

IN TUNE
DAVID BRINN

After the Storm SMOKIN' GUN (Axiom)

AMERICAN country music in Israel may sound like something too foreign to integrate here, but this veteran country-rock band has been making inroads.

Its debut album is a mixed bag of ordinary '70s covers by the Eagles and Jimmy Buffet, more imaginative and modern adaptations of Garth Brooks and John Anderson, and one great original track in the title tune.

While the instrumentation (a basic rock setup embellished by violin and mandolin) is not very different from many country-inflected rockers like John Mellencamp, the vocals of Gary Dagey place the band squarely in the country side of country rock.

The heartfelt title tune demonstrates that the band should begin to put the John Denver covers away and concentrate on its own material.

KULA SHAKER (NMC)

Kula Shaker is the latest British buzz-band, causing a sensation in its native land with this debut album.

Led by Crispin Mills, the son of the former child actress Hayley Mills (remember The Parent Trap?), Kula Shaker, like most Brit-pop bands, attempts to relive the psychedelic '60s. Swirling organs, phased and reverberating guitars, lyrics full of "karma" and two songs sung entirely in Sanskrit gives you a good picture of what you're getting into.

If you're able to wade through the pretensions, there are some highly enjoyable moments on K. At times reminiscent of the early Small Faces, the band shines on the nasty guitar crunch of "Grateful When You're Dead/Jerry Was Here"

(which despite its title has nothing to do with The Grateful Dead) and the pop sparkle of "Into the Deep."

Too much of the rest of the album contains intense navel-gazing, blatant '60s rip-offs or plain uninteresting material.

Universal OMD (Helicon)

One of the pioneer new-wave synth bands, Orchestral Maneuvers in the Dark from the early '80s is still alive and kicking as a streamlined pop band.

You may have heard the catchy single "Walking on the Milky Way" which has one of those melodies that is so memorable, it unavoidably becomes sickening.

The team of Andy McCluskey and Paul Humphries have concentrated on lightweight love songs and inject so much popcraft into each one, that the results have magnetic appeal even as you're telling yourself it's junk.

The synthesizers and electronic drums are subtly incorporated into the mix rather than standing out as a droning inhuman feature.

This is like sneaking into the fridge at night for a chocolate spread sandwich - absolutely no nutritional value, but it tastes good.

Jealous JOHN LEE HOOKER (Helicon)

Down and dirty talkin' blues is alive and well here. A reissue of John Lee Hooker's 1986 self-produced effort, Jealous marks a satisfying if unspectacular point in Hooker's illustrious career.

The reissue is part of a series of out-of-print blues classics being restored by Virgin Records. Nominated for a Grammy when it was originally released, Jealous was a turning point for Hooker's career, which had become clouded by obscurity outside of a hard-core



Pop appeal: OMD's Andy McCluskey

blues following. Its success paved the way for his mainstream breakthrough three years later with The Healer, which brought him fast forward into the rock stardom.

Eschewing the standard 12-bar blues format for a more groove-oriented approach, Hooker finds a comfortable niche with road songs like "Ninety Days" and "Well Well."

Not as impressive as his later work in the '90s, Jealous nonetheless sounds fine in the car stereo as you hit the speed limit with on traffic jams in sight.

KEITH SWEAT (Hed Artzt)

Slow-dancing romantic ballads, upbeat disco and palatable rap scuffle for position on Keith Sweat's fifth album.

One of the most successful R&B artists of the '90s, Sweat's inherited the mantle of R&B crooners from Barry White to Luther Vandross, but added a percussion-heavy beat to match the rappers of today as one of the forerunners of the new jack swing style.

This combination has proved successful and in this self-titled release, he offers more of the same. Mature yet sexy, his material soars compared to the bump-and-grind grooves on the charts today.

An enchanting view of Arabic traditions

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

Tales of Abu Namir by Dahn Ben-Amotz

IT is a far cry from the sophisticated striving of Haifa's new Arab Theater in Israel to the uninhibited simplicity of the village storyteller of Bassam Zuamut's one-man show at the Khan. The former reflects the present-day climate created by a fast-growing urban Arab-Israeli intelligentsia. The latter faithfully represents an older, village Arab tradition steeped in local lore and sagacious street wisdom.

Truer to the temperament, mindset and mentality of the Palestinian villager of a generation back than to that of the youngsters growing up in the computer climate of today, it is a valuable historical asset. As a picture of things past it is enchanting.

As a pointer to a better understanding between our peoples, it has, however, much more weight. How many new immigrants, identifying our Arab neighbors with the terror and atrocities of

recent years, have ever had a glimpse of the genial, honest homespun warmth of the average village Arab we old-timers once knew and respected?

Bassam Zuamut, with his simple touching sincerity, inimitable wit and humor, resurrects him to perfection. This is not the first time that he has in his professional capacity contributed to Arab-Israeli mutual understanding. The process started, with his enduring appearances in the TV series "The Big Restaurant" and also in "Neighbors."

But as Abu Namir, slipping tamarind, his enormous grin flattered by a loose galabiya, he encompasses a whole panoply of mythic personae. Ranging from the rich sultan Suleiman to the simple Beduin sheikh, from the legendary Karagoz to the crude carpet thief (not forgetting a menagerie of domestic fauna - goats, wolves, asses, frogs, desert deer - in between), he conjures up a world rich in atmosphere, authenticity, and native charm.

A Texan opera singer who speaks Hebrew

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

GROWING up in southern Texas and later on in Florida, Dean Peterson dreamed of being professional football star Dan Marino. But he never imagined that one day he would be dividing his time between the leading opera houses of the world and learning Hebrew.

Today Peterson, an accomplished bass, is in Israel singing in the Israel Philharmonic's anniversary-season opening concerts until the end of the month. For someone who usually gets to sing the bad guys on the opera stage, singing two religious works like Beethoven's Missa Solemnis and Handel's Messiah is a welcome change.

Marrying a Jewish wife meant that Peterson's life changed somewhat. Although he lives in Florida with his wife and two young daughters, "I study Hebrew because [it is] a language my daughters will speak. My wife speaks Hebrew with them and we celebrate all the Jewish holidays at home. It's just great."

Peterson considers singing to be a glorious job and responsibility alike. "If you don't use the gift God has given you, you are blasphemous. Who am I to say God was wrong?"

The tall, handsome Peterson made his IPO debut a few years ago in Verdi's *Il trovatore* and he sang *Messiah* with Zubin Mehta a year ago in Florence. In one performance, in which mezzo Denyce Graves fainted on stage, his impressive physical stature saved the day.

"I took her in my arms and carried her to her room. ... Mehta reminded me of this on the first rehearsal."

So if something similar happens to soprano Laura Aikin this time around, she has no need to worry. Peterson will be ready to help at a moment's notice.

Rubin academics teach by example

CONCERT ROUNDUP

THE new season at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance was celebrated with a faculty concert that included modern dance, classical music, and a variety of vocal performances and jazz.

The standard repertoire was appropriately represented by Beethoven, cellist Shmuel Magen and pianist Allan Sternfeld. They proved how an energy-charged piano and a sedate cello can, in spite of contrasting attitude, achieve a reasonable coexistence.

Soprano Robin Weis-Capsuto's rendition of Lee Hoiby's "Serpent" (1979) was reminiscent of a Broadway musical's style. So was her "Sing unto the Lord," from Dvorak's Biblical Songs. A song by Naomi Shemer supplied the Israeli touch. Sternfeld as the accompanist adapted flexibly to the changing moods.

Inventive, jazz-inspired piano improvisations were impressively tossed off by Slava Ganulin, in combination with a synthesizer. A selection from choreographer Amir Kolben's new creation, *G is L - 2*, was a duet of stylized violence. Perhaps it symbolized the mutual attraction and repulsion of the sexes. In any case, the performance by Kolben and Galit Hamami was thoroughly polished.

Jerusalem Rubin Academy, October 16.

Ury Eppstein

lively and liveliness in their rendition of Bartok's String Quartet No. 6.

A jolting switch of moods transported the quartet back to Late Romantic emotionalism in Brahms's String Quartet (Op. 51/1). The warm-blooded playing was exuberant and faithful to the work's spirit.

Jerusalem Music Centre, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, October 18.

Ury Eppstein

FOUR orchestral suites were featured in the Israel Sinfonietta, Beersheba, Classical 1 series. Guest conductor Joseph Halperin of Sweden drew a big sound from the Sinfonietta.

Eyal Ein-Habar was fluted soloist in Bach's Suite No. 2 in B minor. He brought rhythmic and conceptual spaciousness to the well-known German Baroque work. His polished playing on Debussy's Gallic *Penite Suisse* inspired his wind-section colleagues.

Recently reorganized, the Sinfonietta strings sounded rich and intense in Respighi's arrangements of Renaissance songs. Ancient Aires and Dances, Suite No. 3.

Charismatic and beautiful, Galina Malinski added to the splendid Spanish color of De Falla's *El Amor Brujo*. Her rich lusty soprano voice was used with precision and taste. Hailing from Central Asia, Malinski was a star of the Tadjik Opera for 10 years before immigrating in 1991.

Beersheba Conservatory, October 19.

Max Stern

Israelis in Suzanne Dellal international contest hold their own

DANCE REVIEW
ORA BRAFMAN

THE adjudicators of The Suzanne Dellal International Dance Competition will announce tomorrow the winner or winners of this week-long competition. For the first time in its short history they may have a problem deciding whom to award the prize to, given the strength of this year's competition.

After a despairingly slow start with Pal Fernak's company from France, which exercised tautness in motion as a substitute for a coherent purpose, on came an Argentinean company, El Escote, to discuss the world through bare backs. The artistic drought was brought to an end with the talented Pedro Berdayes of the strong and captivating Spanish dancers of Diez & Diez.

One French choreographer took it upon himself to dare the world of contemporary dance and introduce work that is based on the concept of hope. This rebellious approach led him to ignore the current trend of fashionable undressing, violent pushing and shoving, serious onanism front stage or looking at dancers as a

laboratory specimen from a high-brow, objective, dehumanizing standpoint.

He managed to express feelings without slipping into emotionalism and concurrently to convey a true sense of our time.

All of the above couldn't have been managed without a great ensemble of prime dancers, which the choreographer's own troupe, Compagnie Philippe Tchet, certainly are.

Quasar was a highly gifted, mesmerizing dance company from Brazil which proved to be energetic and hilarious while performing a work by Henrique Rodovalho that is captivatingly rhythmic and smooth, as well as being very cheeky, very Brazilian, much like the local music that accompanies each and every applause they got, and there were many. The Israeli choreographers that participated were Ido Tadmor with Ta ("Cell"), Noa Dar's Lacrymosa for BatSheva II and a

premier of Uri Ivgi for the Kibbutz Dance Company. The latter didn't manage to soar but Dar's short piece has many merits, and Tadmor's full-length, highly successful work can certainly hold its own with the best of them, particularly his virtuoso performance that surely merits a prize for outstanding performer.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK WEEK CHARTS			ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	31	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#2	4	30	SHLOMO ARTZI	SHMAM
#3	3	30	RITA	TIME STOPS
#4	16	2	VIA	ALENBY 58
#5	6	6	YAIR ROZENBLUM	HGESHM HACHARON
#6	2	15	VIA	HITMAN 7
#7	5	3	VIA	PARTY TIME II
#8	7	6	FRIENDS OF NATASHA	LIVE
#9	19	9	YEHUDA POLKER	HAYLED SHEBECHA
#10	9	24	GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER
#11	21	2	OST	TRANSFOTTING
#12	RE	1	VIA	VERY BEST OF ISRAEL
#13	12	10	VIA	NOW 34
#14	11	19	FUGEES	THE SCORE
#15	NEW!	1	VIA	DREAMLAND II

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

The Cambridge Illustrated History of BRITISH THEATRE by Simon Trussler

Lavishly illustrated in the best tradition of the Cambridge University Press, this 404 pp. volume presents a social and cultural history of Britain as much as a description of actors, directors, designers and authors.

From the early Middle Ages to contemporary times and themes, the author describes early forms of drama and religious ceremony and weaves the history of social and political forces which shaped theatre.

Selected contents include: The Era of the Outdoor Playhouses; The Restoration Theatre; Romance and Realism; The War and The Long Weekend; Theatre and the Marketplace.

Hardcover, color and black-and-white prints, photographs, sketches, playbills; Chronology, Glossary, Who's Who, Select Bibliography, Index.

JP Price: NIS 191, incl. VAT, postage and handling (in Israel) Door-to-door delivery (where available): NIS 199

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, October 22, 1996

Dead Sea Works may be split-up

DAVID HARRIS

DEAD Sea Works (DSW) confirmed its parent company, Israel Chemicals, is considering splitting DSW into three new companies, with the possible long-term aim of floating them on stock exchanges.

An initial proposal to separate the magnesium, potash, and chemical products operations was discussed by ICL's board Sunday.

The issue is currently being investigated by the various committees of ICL, said Yossi Ron, an aide to the managing director of DSW, yesterday. "Of course, the reason we want to do this is so that we can increase profits."

By splitting DSW, company executives believe they will be able to

increase the availability of capital. The move will take place in the next few months, according to Ron. However, it is still unclear if, when, and where the flotation might take place.

DSW, an 89 percent-owned subsidiary of Israel Chemicals, ceased to be a fully state-owned company last year with the purchase of a majority stake in ICL by Israel Corporation and the Eisenberg group. Today, 69% of DSW's shares are traded on the TASE.

The company posted a 25.5% rise in annual net profits to NIS110.26 million last year, from NIS87.82m. in 1994. DSW invested NIS678m. in upgrade and development in 1995.

Sharon to explore plan for Israel Lands to sell gov't real estate

EVELYN GORDON

MINISTER of National Infrastructure Ariel Sharon said yesterday he will explore the possibility of allowing the Israel Lands Authority (ILA) to sell, rather than lease, the real estate under its auspices.

Sharon, who was speaking to the Knesset State Control Committee, said he favored the idea in principle, as sales would simplify land allocation practices - which are currently Byzantine in their complexity.

However, Sharon said there is a danger that land sales would enable foreigners, including the residents of Arab states or the Palestinian Authority, legally to acquire large chunks of Israeli land. Therefore, he said, any sale would have to include safeguards, such as a ban

on purchases by foreigners. In the meantime, the ILA has decided to ease the situation by doubling the length of leases, out-going ILA Chairman Uzi Wexler told the committee. Until now, the maximum lease was 98 years, but this has been increased to 196 years.

Sharon also told the committee he will continue to use the ILA as a tool for population dispersion. In particular, he said, the government wants to bring more people to the Negev and the Galilee.

Committee Chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) welcomed Sharon's announcement about selling state lands. Cohen said the current system is anachronistic and creates unpleasantness for everyone who has to deal with the ILA's bureaucracy.

The ILA's Wexler agreed that a land-sale program would reduce friction between the populace and the ILA.

The committee discussed State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's findings on the ILA in her recent State Comptroller's Report. The comptroller found that the ILA gave hundreds of millions of shekels in "hidden" discounts by undervaluing the land it leased. It also gave some NIS500 million of open discounts.

However, the comptroller said the ILA failed to verify whether these discounts actually helped it achieve its stated goals of population dispersion and of building up "confrontation line" areas.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Yishai angers Manufacturers Association with call to hike minimum wage: A row has broken out between Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai and the Manufacturers Association over the minister's call to increase the minimum wage.

Yishai told a meeting of ministers Sunday night that he favors increasing the minimum wage from its current 45 percent of the average salary. (The monthly minimum wage is now NIS2085.) In response, employers' representatives yesterday said any change to the status quo will damage industry. *David Harris*

Sharanovsky meets French minister to discuss trade deficit, investment: Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharanovsky met French Foreign Trade Minister Yves Galland yesterday for talks on economic cooperation. Among the issues discussed were the trade balance, unilateral investments, and joint work in R&D.

Bilateral trade totalled \$1.44 billion in the first nine months of the year, with Israel's deficit standing at some \$348 million, up 1.1 percent on the same period last year. *David Harris*

Agriculture Ministry wants to see lower fish prices: Fish prices are too high and must be reduced as part of the government's continuing program to "expose" Israeli markets to foreign competition, said Agriculture Ministry deputy director-general Dalia Harel yesterday. Harel's comments immediately were criticized by the Fish-Breeders Association. *David Harris*

Government mints Rabin memorial coins: The government's medals and coins company has minted 1,999 gold coins in memory of the late Yitzhak Rabin. Each of the 24 carat coins is valued at NIS2,777, weighs 31 grams, and has a diameter of 35 millimeters. *David Harris*

Shekel depreciates to 3.27 against dollar

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE shekel's depreciation in the currency-trading rooms of big banks continued yesterday for the fifth consecutive trading day.

The shekel settled at 3.27 to the dollar, a loss of 0.3 percent of the shekel's value in comparison with the previous closing rate, and 2.5% weaker than the shekel's dollar value last Thursday.

Earlier in the day, the shekel plummeted to 3.3 to the dollar, before staging a limited recovery.

Against the Bank of Israel's basket of leading foreign currencies, the shekel traded yesterday at 3.6479, completing a loss of 2.1% of its value against that basket over three consecutive trading days.

This leaves the shekel 2% above the level below which the Bank of

Israel will not allow it to fall. That level is dictated by the central bank's so-called "diagonal mechanism," which reflects an annual forecast of the major developed economies' inflation. The diagonal mechanism defines the limits within which the central bank allows the markets to determine the shekel's value.

The relatively volatile currency trading stems from market expectation that the central bank next week will announce a sizable cut in its key lending rate.

Lower interest-rates generally reduce the attraction of shekel-denominated bank deposits, while increasing demand for currencies whose rates are not subject to an equally decreasing trend.

Cairo summit will host ministers, but not PMs

DAVID HARRIS

THE third annual Middle East/North Africa economic summit in Cairo next month will not be held at Prime Ministerial level, the summit's general coordinator, Shoukry Fuad, told the *Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa distributed invitations on a ministerial level a fortnight ago, and so far no attempt has been made to include government chiefs or heads of state, said Fuad.

Israeli Foreign Ministry officials said the Egyptians are still to decide whether the summit will be held at the ministerial or prime ministerial level.

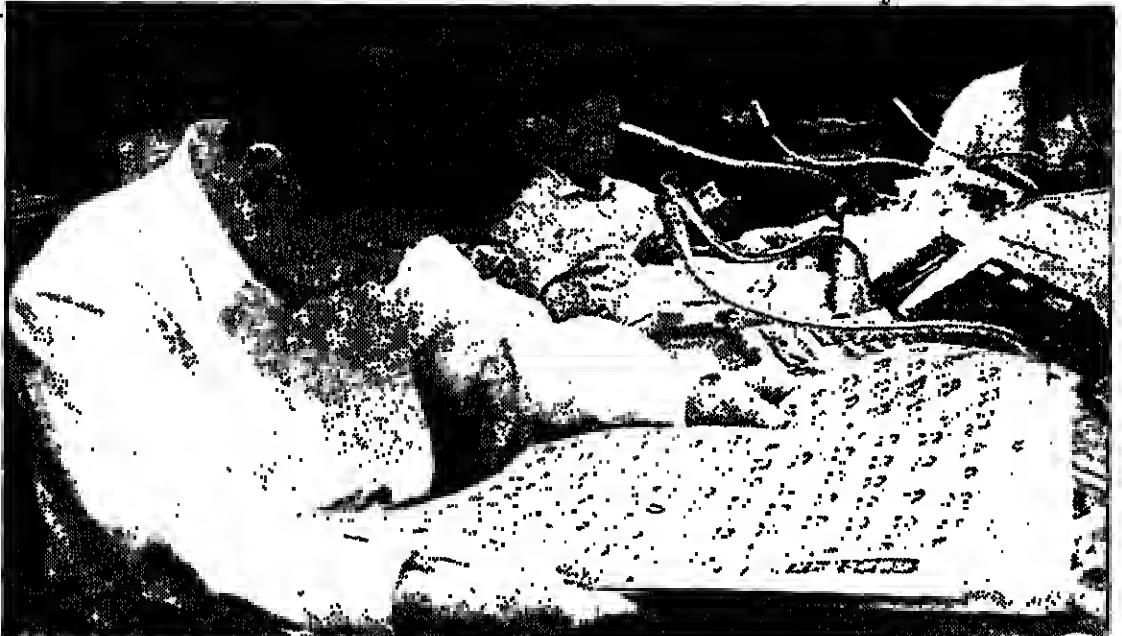
"We are not responding to the comments of Shoukry Fuad," said a spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Israeli ministers that have confirmed their attendance are

David Levy (Foreign), Dan Meridor (Finance), Natan Sharanovsky (Industry and Trade), and Limor Livnat (Communications), according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor.

However, Fuad said no government has informed Egypt yet of the composition of its summit delegation. Fuad also denied media reports US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat have confirmed they will head their respective governmental delegations.

The Geneva-based World Economic Forum, which takes overall responsibility for the summit and inviting the business community, declined to comment on the make-up of political delegations, saying it is a matter for the Egyptian government.



A Tokyo dealer reads the morning paper, checking Japan's election results between trades at a foreign-exchange brokerage yesterday. The dollar rose to 112.85 yen, its highest level since January 1994, but the market largely ignored the results of Sunday's vote. Tokyo traders said a new government was likely to maintain current monetary and currency policies. (Reuters)

Vishay cancels plans for Ofakim plant, citing gov't red tape

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

VISHAY Intertechnology's claim that government red tape caused it to cancel a proposed \$50 million factory in Ofakim is "simply unfounded," acting director-general of the Trade and Industry Ministry Yehoshua Gleitman said yesterday.

The US-based company said yesterday it decided not to open its fifth Israeli electronics plant in the northern Negev town, because of six months of government foot-dragging.

"Businesses have to invest to make sure they have enough supply," a source close to the company said. Vishay will open

the factory, which was expected to employ 120 people, in the Czech Republic instead. Czech officials could not be reached for comment.

Gleitman said Vishay's statement was based on the company's disappointment at not receiving a government investment-aid package for the Ofakim project, despite the government's previous refusal to grant Vishay direct investment aid for the factory.

In January, former Prime Minister Shimon Peres and then Finance Minister Avraham Shohat appealed personally to Vishay President Felix Zandman to set up a plant in the struggling development town. Still, Peres and Shohat made it clear the government could not afford to offer Vishay more grants, and the company would have to transfer some of the \$45m. in grant money promised earlier to Vishay for its \$120m. Beersheba plant, Gleitman said.

"When Peres approached Zandman, there was NIS700m. worth of requests for investment grants - we simply couldn't afford to offer Vishay more money," Gleitman said.

Vishay said Peres and Shohat had first offered the company a 38% grant and later reduced their offer to 34%.

Vishay said plans to expand its Dimona, Beersheba, and Migdal Ha'emek plants, which have received promises of government grants of 38% or 34%, will go forward as scheduled. The company recently said the government's proposal to reduce investment grants from 34% to 20% will not affect Vishay.

Based in Pennsylvania, Vishay develops and manufactures a wide range of electronic resistors and resistive sensors. The company sells its products to the computer, telecommunications, military/aerospace, and automotive industries. Vishay Israel's four plants currently employ more than 3,000 workers.

Saddam Hussein urges ministers to cut spending

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told cabinet ministers discussing the 1997 budget to make better use of resources and to cut spending, state newspapers said yesterday.

"The efficient performance of the economy, which is equal to defending Iraq, depends on reducing expenditure and the national use of resources," Saddam was quoted as saying at the Sunday meeting. The papers did not report any figures.

Iraq has been crippled by six years of trade sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. High state-spending on infrastructure and subsidies to farmers also has fuelled inflation.

After Saddam last December ordered ministers to improve the economy, the government raised prices for public utilities and urged ministries to spend only the funds they generated. The government measures were meant partly to strengthen Iraq's battered currency. The dinar slipped early this year to 3,000 to the US dollar. When Iraq agreed to talks with the UN on an "oil-for-food" deal, the dinar surged to 450 to the dollar.

The deal allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion of oil every six months to buy food and medicine. However, delays in implementing the pact signed in May have weakened the dinar again. The dinar fell to 1,800 to the dollar yesterday, down from 1,500 a week ago. Iraq's Central Bank early this month allowed official banks to sell hard currency for dinars in a bid to improve confidence in the dinar. It stabilized for a few days, then started sinking again.

Yishai to cut Shabbat work permits

El Al: Subsidiary won't fly on Shabbat

DAVID HARRIS

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) said he intends to restrict the number of permits for people who want to work on Shabbat.

A committee of ministerial staff, scientists, and businessmen will examine ways of reducing permits. While the committee has existed in name for some time, in recent years it has not functioned, according to the Ministry.

Some 50 percent of Israelis, including religious, traditional, and secular Jews, are interested in finding new ways of not breaking Shabbat laws, said Yishai.

Meanwhile, El Al said yesterday it has absolutely no intention of flying on Shabbat, nor will it allow any of its subsidiaries to operate on Saturdays.

The denial followed a report in

yesterday's *Yediot Aharonot*, which alleged the company is "preparing to fly on Shabbat in Europe to reduce its losses."

The newspaper suggested El Al intends to allow its Netherlands-based subsidiary, Star Line, to make Shabbat flights.

"We are bound by the rules laid down by our owner, who happens to be the government," said El Al spokesman Nachman Kliezman. He rejected the report as being "without any foundation."

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy said on Sunday he will oppose any attempt to allow El Al to fly on Shabbat. National Religious Party member Levy confirmed that a consortium of observant Jewish businessmen from the US has made an offer to buy the company and would fly only six-days a week.



THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT COMPANIES AUTHORITY hereby announces

that it is considering selling all the shares held by the State of Israel (hereafter: "the State Shares") in: **Yozma Venture Capital Ltd. (hereafter: "Yozma")**

Parties (other than "Government Corporations" as defined in the below-mentioned Sale Procedure) interested in purchasing all the State Shares (100%), are entitled to apply to the Government of Israel through the Government Companies Authority as specified in this advertisement.

Necessary application forms and documents - written in Hebrew - including the Procedure for Sale of the State Shares (hereafter: "the Sale Procedure"), may be purchased as of Sunday, October 13, 1996, from Ms. Ronit Unanion or Mr. Dan Weintraub, Government Companies Authority, 1 Kaplan St., 7th floor, Room 725, Jerusalem; Tel. 02-317292, 02-317198; Fax. 02-611680, for a sum of NIS 5,000 (which shall not be refunded), payable by a banker's cheque to the Ministry of Finance - the Accountant General.

According to the conditions set forth in the Sale Procedure, the final date for submitting applications is no later than 16:00, Sunday, November 24, 1996. The Government Companies Authority may, by way of a published announcement, extend or advance the final date for submission of applications, as well as change other dates and conditions in the Sale Procedure, at its sole end absolute discretion.

Prior to the sale of the State's Shares, Yozma's assets and liabilities resulting from its investments in venture capital funds will be transferred to the Government, in accordance with the decision of the Ministerial Committee on Privatization.

The Government shall be entitled, at its sole and absolute discretion, to select from among the applicants and from among other parties it may address, candidates who shall continue to participate in the sale process, after considering which candidates best satisfy the requirements specified in the Sale Procedure, including among others, managerial, development and investment capabilities in Yozma's spheres of activity, the existence of business plans for the development and enhancement of the company's business and other requirements, specified in the Sale Procedure.

The sale of the State Shares is exempt from the obligation to hold a tender, under the "Obligation of Tenders Regulations - 1993".

The method of privatizing Yozma was approved by the Finance Committee of the Knesset on October 7, 1996.

In order to remove any doubt, it is hereby clarified that this advertisement does not constitute an invitation to the general public to purchase the State Shares, nor does it constitute an offer or undertaking on the part of the Government to sell the State Shares. The purchaser of the State Shares shall be determined on the basis of negotiations which the Government may, at its sole and absolute discretion, conduct with any party, if it shall decide to proceed with the said sale.

The purchase of the State Shares is subject to the prior approval of the Antitrust Authority.

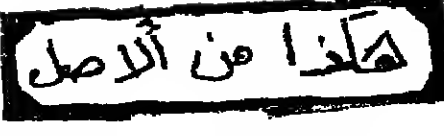
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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	
British sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.10.96)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.6109	3.6998	Buy	3.6479
German mark	2.1008	2.1912	Buy	2.2700
French franc	5.1892	5.2191	Buy	2.1523
Japanese yen (100)	0.6217	0.6316	Buy	5.2927
Dutch florin	2.8813	2.9278	Buy	0.6294
Swiss franc	1.5715	1.6017	Buy	2.8978
Swedish krona	2.3522	2.3934	Buy	1.8928
Norwegian krona	0.4872	0.4951	Buy	2.5819
Denish krona	0.4955	0.5035	Buy	0.4941
Finland mark	0.5485	0.5574	Buy	0.52
Canadian dollar	0.7020	0.7134	Buy	0.5528
Australian dollar	2.2947	2.4334	Buy	0.7108
S. African rand	2.5731	2.6147	Buy	2.4218
Belgian franc (10)	1.0183	1.0233	Buy	2.6108
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9833	3.0333	Buy	0.7188
Italian lira (1000)	2.1084	2.1426	Buy	1.0332
Jordanian dinar	4.5000	4.6100	Buy	3.0234
Egyptian pound	0.8200	0.8100	Buy	2.1506
EURO	0.0345	0.0350	Buy	4.8107
Irish punt	1.1825	1.1925	Buy	1.0201
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4958	2.5261	Buy	4.0884
			Sell	5.2320
			Buy	2.5275

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



Stocks fall as investors await interest-rate cut

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided Index

Maof Index

STOCKS fell, ending a four-day rally, as investors waited to see if the central bank would cut interest rates.

The strong dollar helped the market jump to these levels, said Daniela Finn, head of research at the Bancha securities firm in Tel Aviv.

The shekel has weakened recently, potentially boosting profits for exporters but also ringing alarm bells about inflation. Yesterday it weakened to 3.27 to the dollar from 3.269 Friday.

The Mishtanin declined 0.29 percent to 191.03, while the Maof eased 0.41% to 201.16.

The most-active issue was Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which jumped 3.5% on NIS17.1 million (\$5.2m) of shares traded.

Some NIS73 million (\$22.3 million) of shares traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Six stocks fell for every five that advanced.

Africa-Israel Investments shares dropped 4%. Parent Bank Leumi denied reports its plans to appoint Likud Party treasurer Izz

Tapuchi as chairman of the property developer were politically motivated.

Cial Israel dropped 0.5%. Bank Hapoalim sold 6% of Cial to IDB Development to comply with laws restricting banks' non-bank holdings.

The shekel has dropped on expectations the central bank will reduce rates. Israel's relatively high rates have attracted funds into investments offering inflation-adjusted returns of as much as 6%.

The weaker currency may help exporters by making their products cheaper for overseas buyers. In addition, they pay their costs and salaries in weaker shekels and earn revenues in stronger dollars.

At the same time, a boost in the economy could generate stronger inflation. The Consumer Price Index appears headed for an annual rate of 11% this year, compared to the government's estimate of 8% to 10% for 1996, and with 8.1% reported for last year. (Bloomberg)

European stocks mixed though London sets record on bid hopes

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - UK stock market climbed to record highs, buoyed by bid speculation and a turnaround on Wall Street during European trading hours.

The FTSE 100 share index ended at 4,073.1 points, up 20 points on the day and just a fraction off a new all-time high of 4,073.2 points set in late afternoon trading.

FRANKFURT - German shares ended bourse dealings slightly lower, weighed down by a weaker dollar, with dealers saying the market was consolidating following the record-breaking run of recent weeks.

The DAX index of 30 leading shares closed floor trade down 5.79 points at 2,729.03. In post-bourse trade the index rose 6.11 to 2,733.67.

PARIS - French shares closed slightly easier, ignoring fresh gains on Wall Street, amid profit-taking after Friday's two-and-a-half-year closing high.

The blue-chip CAC-40 index closed down 5.01 points at 2,180.22.

ZURICH - Swiss shares failed to recover from midday lows and closed below the psychologically important level of 3,800 points on the blue-chip Swiss Market Index.

Volume was low, with foreign investors largely absent. The broad SPI fell 8.87 points to 2,429.65.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks closed sharply lower after gains posted last week, brokers said.

Turnover was small as investors retreated with a wait-and-see stance toward the elections the country held at the weekend. The benchmark Nikkei 225 average sank 309.35 points to settle at 21,302.95.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market ended firm, just a few points away from its record closing high, after resource stocks found support on the back of a firmer copper price and another record close for the Dow on Friday.

The key share market barometer, the All Ordinaries index, closed 8.2 points higher at 2,363.2, three points off its all-time record high closing level of 2,366.2, set last week.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares closed a quiet day near opening levels after earlier dipping lower.

The overall index was up 7.7 points to 7,011.5, industrials gained 4.5 points to 8,262.9 and golds were up 7.8 points to 1,676.2.

Dow dips on profit-taking after IBM, Texaco earnings

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell yesterday, as profit-taking wiped out another push to record levels after solid earnings from IBM and big oil companies.

The Dow Jones Industrial average dipped 3.36 points to close at 6,090.87. The blue-chip barometer surrendered a nearly 40-point jump that put it over 6,100 just a week after it first closed above 6,000.

IBM's profit edged lower in the

third quarter amid stagnant revenues from software products and higher operating expenses.

The profit initially failed to inspire enthusiasm. A subsequent conference call with analysts improved the market's assessment.

Texaco and Chevron reported third-quarter profits jumped about 50 percent.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 0.97 to 709.85.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, FFF and rows for various currencies.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Table of stock prices under 'Multi-sided trading' including Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, and Financial Institutions.

Two-sided trading

Table of stock prices under 'Two-sided trading' including various company names and their prices.

Investment Companies

Table of investment companies and their stock prices.

Property, Building & Agriculture

Table of property, building, and agriculture stocks.

Trades & Services

Table of trades and services stocks.

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, Paris, Zurich, Tokyo, and others.

Key Representative Rates

Table of key representative rates including U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York market indexes

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrial, DJ Transportation, and NYSE Composite.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in US

Table of Israeli stocks in US including AMEX, NASDAQ, and OTC.

Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 21-OCT-96)

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table of dollar crossrates for various currencies.

Labor rates

Table of labor rates for different periods.

Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 21-OCT-96)

Foreign financial data courtesy of CominStock Trading Ltd.

Table of foreign financial data including futures, options, stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

INTERNATIONAL COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Table of US commodities including coffee, sugar, and wheat.

London commodities

Table of London commodities including oil and metals.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metals including gold and silver.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures including gold, silver, and copper.

Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 21-OCT-96)

Vertical sidebar with various advertisements including 'BRIEFS', 'Weeks fiscal mechanism', 'Shabbat permits', and 'KEY MARKET'.

SPORTS

Galil halts Jerusalem's undefeated streak

ANDREW Kennedy and Gur Shlef are as consistent a tandem as any, but when Hapoel Galil Elyon added a solid performance from Jason Dixon into the recipe last night, the result was a 71-68 Galil victory over previously undefeated Hapoel Jerusalem.

ELI GRONER

Galil had a 57-48 advantage with 8:35 to play. Over the next five minutes, only three field goals were converted, as Finny Gershon's club outscored David Blatt's 6-2, to cut the lead to four.

set as a force to be reckoned with by scoring 16 points while hauling in eight rebounds and playing strong defense.

the threesome was sloppy as well and was mostly to blame for Jerusalem's 13 first-half turnovers.

Bengals fire David Shula

CINCINNATI (Reuter) - The Cincinnati Bengals fired David Shula as head coach yesterday and named offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet as his replacement.

ing at film getting ready for this week. But it's all about record and the results were not adequate.

Lightning christens new Ice Palace with win over Rangers

TAMPA (Reuter) - Dino Ciccarelli and Alexander Selivanov scored 32 seconds apart in the opening minute of the second period and the Lightning christened the new Ice Palace Sunday with a 5-2 win over the New York Rangers.

Game 1 to Game 82." Campbell said. "When the other team sees a couple of legends and a couple of World Cuppers, their heads are going to tuck.

fired a slap shot inside the right goal post for his sixth NHL goal in 208 games.

second period and Chris Terrell made 24 saves as visiting San Jose held for victory.

Fuhr lost his stick.

Saints coach quits

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Jim Mora resigned yesterday as coach of the New Orleans Saints, one day after a profane tirade following a loss to the Carolina Panthers.

Brian Bradley and Roman Hamrlik also scored for Tampa Bay, whose 4-1 start is the best in franchise history.

Zhamnov was acquired from Phoenix in August in the Jeremy Roenick deal, but held out until Friday, when he signed a five-year contract.

It was Gartner's league-leading seventh goal of the season and third on the power play.

St. Louis had an apparent tying goal by Marc Bergevin disallowed just over three minutes later.

Flames 6, Oilers 3

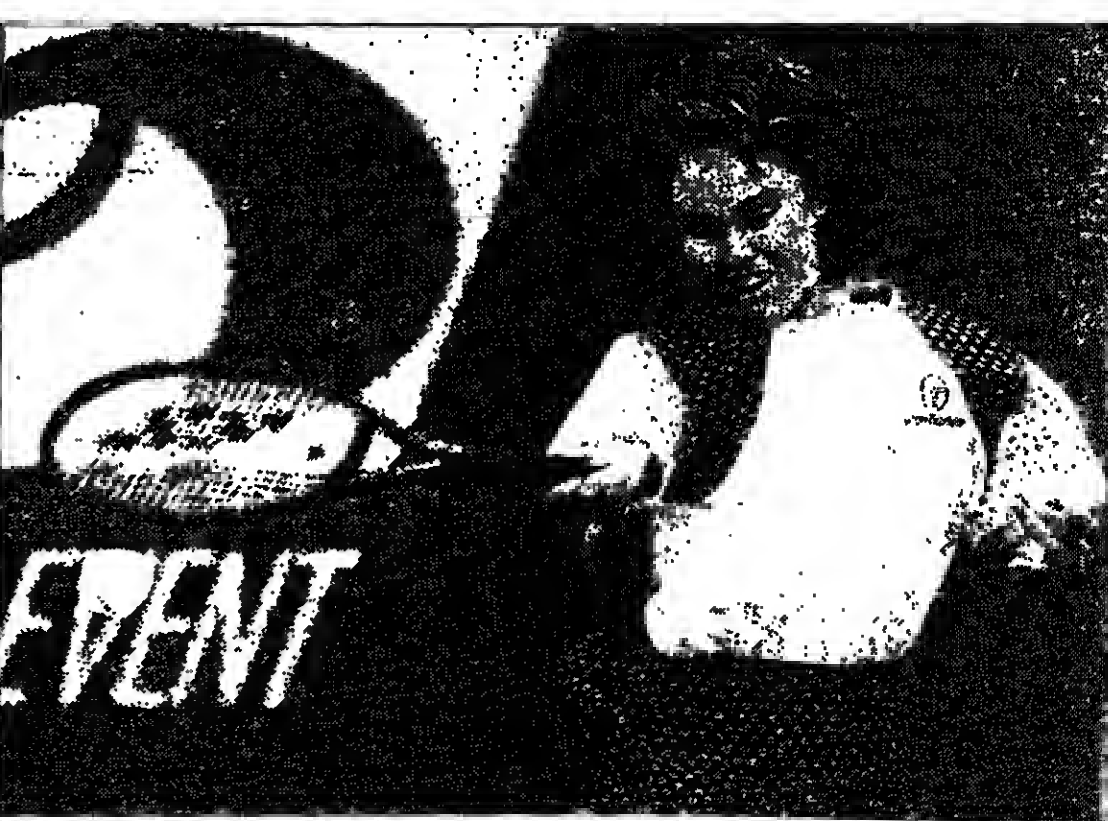
Blame it on Eck

NEW YORK (AP) - Thanks a lot, Dennis Eckersley. Yeah, you, Eckersley. You with the long hair and that nasty-split-finger fastball that confounds hitters.

Fred McGriff. Between them, Pettitte and Boehringer allowed 12 runs on 11 hits, making them equally responsible for the damage.

ZURICH (Reuter) - Martina Hingis may know how to win but the 16-year-old Swiss has not yet learnt how to lose.

has been reluctant to punish its protegee.



WATCH OUT FOR FLYING RACKETS - Martina Hingis's uncanny talent has been offset by her devastating temper.

getting even. The Yankees just happened to be a convenient victim in a 12-1 beating.

Eck was particularly animated, pumping his fist and gesturing after saving Game 4, a win that put St. Louis one win away from the World Series.

At times in both tournaments she displayed the steely composure of a veteran and the petulance of a spoiled child.

"If it keeps on we would be concerned but I think it's something we can deal with now," said Georgina Clark, the WTA European operations director.

mind on the job.

A volatile temperament appears to be part of a Swiss tennis player's make up.

hand in a fit of temper when he smashed it against a sign while playing mixed doubles with Hingis in the finals of the Hopman Cup in Australia.

CLASSIFIEDS

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BERLITZ: REQUIRED URGENTLY COUNTRYWIDE EXPERIENCED LANGUAGE TEACHERS (Native Speakers Only) IF YOU ...

Tabak says no to Mac. Petah Tikva

MACCABI Petah Tikva's hopes of signing Benny Tabak as its coach in place of Avraham Marchinsky were dashed yesterday.

He was probably reluctant to take up the job at Petah Tikva following the frequency with which the Luzon brothers (Avi and Amos) dispose of coaches.

Wembley favored as national stadium

LONDON (Reuter) - Wembley became favorite to be named as home for Britain's new national stadium after its bid was backed by soccer, the governing bodies of all three sports said they would rather the proposed all-purpose stadium were built on the north London site than in Manchester - the only other option.

CLASSICAL DANCE DRAPERY

הכלה מן האל

Investigation of alleged Murdoch tax scam continues

RAINE MARCUS

LEO Krieger, former financial officer for media tycoon Rupert Murdoch's Jerusalem-based News Datacom Research, was questioned for a second day by the Income Tax Authority yesterday.

Krieger, who left the company in 1992, has been questioned in the past about alleged personal tax evasion unrelated to the company. In that investigation, he allegedly confessed to defrauding authorities. However, he is refusing to cooperate in the probe involved the alleged \$150 million in tax evasion by Murdoch's company.

Murdoch issued a statement from Australia yesterday accusing senior managers of News Datacom of attempting to blackmail him.

Tax authorities here have described the alleged scam as the largest in the history of the country. Authorities said five people, including company employees and others connected with its activities, were questioned, some under caution. Investigators also contacted company accountants.

No one has been arrested thus far and tax authorities insisted that no warrant has been issued for Murdoch. The probe is currently concentrating on News Datacom's activities here, they said.

Last night, News Datacom issued a statement expressing "outrage" at the "large and intrusive action against the company and its employees" despite its full cooperation with the Income Tax Authority. The company noted that it "reports its tax in the same manner as hundreds of other research and development subsidiaries of international compa-

nies in Israel."

The company accused a former employee, Michael Clinger, who it said is involved in a legal dispute in London and taking refuge here, of driving the investigation.

Meir Linzel, a lawyer at the Herzog, Fuchs, and Ne'eman law firm in Tel Aviv, was also summoned to give evidence at the tax authority's Jerusalem headquarters yesterday. The law firm is one of those which represents News Datacom Research. Lawyer Tuvia Erlich also gave evidence in Tel Aviv.

The law firm refused to hand over its client's documents and files, arguing client/lawyer confidentiality, and the material is currently in safekeeping in Tel Aviv District Court, which will decide within the next week if tax authorities have the right to examine the material.

Others who tax investigators believe are involved in the massive scam include News Datacom Research president Abe Peled, former shareholder Prof. Adi Shamir, and Dov Rubin. Shamir was responsible for developing the smart card encryptor used by millions of householders worldwide for pay TV. He is now, in his capacity as head of the Weizmann Institute's computer science division, developing a device designed to protect computer data.

Meanwhile, News Datacom Research communications manager Jerry Yampolsky said the company is continuing to function as normal, and the probe is not disturbing its daily business.

Tax authorities are investigating alleged fraud going back to 1990, two years after the subsidiary company here was established.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, with his wife Sara and son Yair looking on, cuts a cake that his office workers brought him for his 47th birthday yesterday. (Yaacov Sa'ar/GPO)

Meretz angry at government rejection of Rabin memorial day

LIAT COLLINS

THE decision by the Ministerial Committee on Ceremonies and Symbols to reject a bill that would make the anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination a day of national remembrance has angered Meretz MKs.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid accused the government of collaborating in an effort to erase the memory of the assassination and gradually deny it.

The faction intends to raise a bill on the subject in the Knesset despite the government's objections. Meretz is enlisting general public support for the bill. A spokeswoman said President Ezer Weizman had also expressed his approval. She said the National Students Union and the Beter movement had also supported

the bill. According to Meretz faction chairman Haim Oran, committee chairman Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav (Likud) had based his refusal on the basis that it would be more fitting for the government to raise the bill than for it to pass as a private member's bill. "It's difficult

to ignore the feeling that the government is purposely sending out a double message," Oran said.

Sarid said he hoped the bill would pass in the Knesset even without the government's support.

MK Ephraim Oshaya (Labor) has sent a letter to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer (National Religious Party) criticizing the printed guidelines the ministry issued for the anniversary.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	C	F
Alexandria	04	14	40	57
Berlin	04	14	40	57
Buenos Aires	15	25	59	77
Cairo	15	25	59	77
Chicago	01	11	34	53
Copenhagen	07	17	45	63
Frankfurt	07	17	45	63
Helsinki	07	17	45	63
Hong Kong	21	31	70	88
London	07	17	45	63
Los Angeles	13	23	55	81
Madrid	08	18	46	65
Moscow	05	15	41	59
New York	08	18	46	65
Paris	08	18	46	65
Rome	08	18	46	65
Sydney	11	21	52	75
Tel Aviv	14	24	57	85
Toronto	08	18	46	65
Vancouver	08	18	46	65
Zurich	08	18	46	65

Winning cards

IN yesterday's weekly Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of spades, the seven of hearts, the 10 of diamonds, and the ace of clubs.

American student gets life for murdering Haifa woman

AMERICAN student Arvin Johnson, 26, was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday by the Haifa Magistrate's Court for the murder of his girlfriend, Ganit Tsinman, 23, in his apartment in the city's Ahuzia neighborhood. Johnson was found guilty of premeditated murder. The prosecution had charged that in January, when Tsinman decided to break off their relationship, Johnson tried to get her to change her mind, but to no avail.

Johnson finally convinced Tsinman to come to his apartment for one last meeting, where police said he stabbed her with a knife he stole from his place of employment. He had told the court that he had taken the knife to commit suicide over poor marks he had gotten at school, and that he had killed Tsinman accidentally. He later claimed someone else killed her, but Judges Micha Lindenstrauss, Salim Jubran, and Menahem Ne'eman rejected the claims. Johnson was speechless after the guilty verdict was read out in the courtroom, and the judges then sentenced him to life imprisonment. (Itm)

Hizbullah continues attacks on SLA

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH launched several attacks against South Lebanese Army targets in the security zone yesterday. According to some reports, an SLA soldier was wounded, although there was no confirmation of this.

The fighting began in the eastern sector, when gunmen opened fire with mortars at an SLA position in the Almediya area. There were no casualties and SLA gunmen returned fire.

Around the same time, a roadside bomb was detonated alongside SLA troops near Beit Yahoun in the western sector. There were also reports of firing at SLA positions in the area. There were no casualties.

Later, more SLA positions around Hatbiyeh and Zummriya, in the eastern sector, came under mortar and Sagger anti-tank missile fire, again without casualties.

IDF and SLA gunmen responded by blasting Hizbullah targets north of the zone.

Another roadside bomb was detonated last night alongside an SLA patrol in the central sector of the zone. At the same time, gunmen fired mortars at an SLA position in the same area, again without causing casualties. IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

The incidents fell into what has become a pattern of two or three attacks a day, mainly by Hizbullah, primarily directed against SLA targets. The escalation has been particularly noticeable since the Lebanese elections, although Syria still appears to be restraining Hizbullah from committing any flagrant breaches of the Operation Grapes of Wrath understandings.

Hizbullah, according to reports in the Lebanese press, is becoming increasingly frustrated at the restrictions being placed on it and what it sees as the ineffectiveness of the monitoring committee established to supervise the understandings.

It is believed that Hizbullah and Amal will increase operations against the IDF and SLA, but that activities will be confined to the security zone, at least until after the US presidential elections.

KNESSET BRIEFS

Panel discusses drugs in army

The group Parents Against Drugs yesterday told members of the War on Drugs Committee that it has received an increasing number of calls by parents of soldiers, including those on the front line. Brig-Gen. On Ragonis, deputy head of IDF manpower, said the military did not tolerate drug use.

He said in 1995, 18,400 drug detection tests had been carried out in the military, catching 166 users; 676 files were opened; and 403 charges made. In the first half of 1996, 361 files were opened.

Committee chairman Eli Ben-Menahem (Labor) suggested the IDF use former addicts and the graduates of drug rehabilitation programs in reserve duty to talk to soldiers about the dangers of drug use.

Add judges to prayer for state

Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) has suggested that the chief rabbis add a mention of judges in the prayer for the welfare of the state and its leaders. He raised the proposal yesterday in view of the tension between

the judiciary and some sectors of the religious public.

"A country can't exist without a judiciary accepted and appreciated by the general public," Lubotsky said.

Herschson wants daytime ban on transport of hazardous materials

Trucks carrying hazardous materials should be completely banned from main roads and centers of population during daytime, Avraham Herschson (Likud) said yesterday. He sent a letter to Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy with the demand following Sunday's accident on the Geha highway.

Herschson also complained that the numbers of the emergency center for hazardous materials, printed on the sides of trucks carrying toxic matter, had changed and the center could not be reached. He also demanded greater enforcement of the regulations concerning the transport of hazardous materials.

Bill would allow unity gov't only in emergency

Naomi Chazan (Meretz) has submitted a bill demanding that a national unity government including the two largest parties can only be formed if a state of national emergency has been declared.

She said that the direct election of prime minister has weakened the opposition because the removing the premier involves dissolving the House, which acts as a deterrent. She said the opposition would be further weakened in a national unity government.

Bill cause for creation of upper house

Ophir Pines (Labor) has submitted a bill calling for an upper house comprising former ministers and/or MKs who served at least three terms in the Knesset.

He said he hoped to create an "elder statesman" status to enhance parliamentary life.

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- E. BRAVING ALASKA
- F. ETERNAL ENEMIES: LIONS AND HYENAS
- G. MOUNTAINS OF FIRE - VOLCANO
- H. THE URBAN GORILLA
- I. CATS: CARESSING THE TIGER
- J. CAMERAMEN WHO DARED
- K. THE INVISIBLE WORLD
- L. KEEPERS OF THE WILD
- M. THE REALM OF THE ALLIGATOR
- N. LIVING TREASURES OF JAPAN
- O. THE PHOTOGRAPHERS
- P. EGYPT: QUEST FOR ETERNITY
- Q. ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE ADVENTURE
- R. AUSTRALIA'S ANIMAL MYSTERIES
- S. THE RHINO WAR

- T. FACING THE SHARKS
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N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	BI
													CI

Enclosed is my check, or credit card details*:

Visa Isracard Diners Am. Ex.

CC. No. _____ Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Code _____

ID No. _____ Tel. (day) _____

Signature _____

* Please make all checks payable to "Tele-Mecher". Credit cards will be debited by "Tele-Mecher".

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Reach all of Israel and the world for just NIS 39

Special Offer!

* Up to 30 words
 * 24 hours a day * 2 full weeks

Dwellings Employment Personals
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Don't forget your contact address /phone /fax /e-mail in your message.

Fax this form to 02-531-5622 or place your ad directly on our web site at <http://www.ipost.co.il>

Name _____

Address _____

Credit Card No. _____

Exp. date _____ Card type _____

Tel. No. _____ Fax No. _____

e-mail address _____

NO TELEPHONE SUBMISSIONS

هكذا من الاصل